Fond farewell to Linda the Milk (SEE PAGE 3)

Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM

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'It saddens this court to see how you conspired with your friends... you knew they were prepared to break the law...' ***Judge***

Former South Wales CID chief jailed for 'corrupt' behaviour

A FORMER head of South Wales Police CID was jailed on Monday, for using his police contacts to gain information for his private investigation agency.

Philip Jones (63) of Aberkenfig, served 30 years with South Wales Police and retired as Detective Chief Superintendent of the force's Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

He then launched a private investigations agency and persuaded colleague David Lloyd (55) of Pen-y-Fai, to pass him information from police computer systems.

Jones also used freelance investigator Christopher Barnett (37) to illegally pose as a customer to gain information from government and private institutions.

The former detective admitted conspiracy to commit wilful misconduct in a public office and conspiracy to commit fraud by false representation at Bristol Crown Court in December 2008.

Jailing him for 18 months at the same court on Monday, Judge Simon Darwall-Smith slammed his behaviour as "corrupt" and criticised his "lack of moral fibre".

He said: "For a person of your age and former seniority, retiring at the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent, it saddens this court to see how you conspired with your friends David Lloyd and Barnett because you knew they were prepared to break the law to access information.

"This lack of moral fibre on your part goes to the root of the corrupt culture existing in parts of the force. The public would be justifiably outraged if you didn't receive an immediate custodial sentence."

The court heard that Jones retired 10 years ago and set up Hillside Investigations.

Lloyd retired as a Detective Constable at Bridgend police station in 2003 before being re-employed as a civilian casework director on the force's Investigative Support Unit (ISU).

Jones began to pay Lloyd to carry out detective work in his spare time.

The court heard the pair also had an "agreement" through which Lloyd would be paid to pass on information from police databases which Jones could use in his investigations.

Lloyd would use the police national computer, the Quick Address Search system and the Niche search system to perform address checks, searches for previous convictions, car registration checks, and other information searches for Jones.

The agreement lasted from September 2005 to January 2008, when the men were arrested after a lengthy investigation by anti-corruption police which involved bugging their cars.

The court heard how audio tapes of the men discussing the handover of information were collected, and how the police set up an undercover officer called 'Raj' to pose as a client wanting information.

At the same time, Lloyd had also been supplying police information to a man named Robert Morgan, a known criminal involved in drug dealing.

When Lloyd was arrested, he was found to be concealing more than £200,000 of Morgan's money in his attic.

Last month, Lloyd admitted conspiracy to commit wilful misconduct while in a public office with Jones.

He denied conspiracy to commit wilful misconduct in a public office and money laundering, namely the £200,000 cash with Morgan but was convicted at Bristol Crown Court.

Sentencing Lloyd to four years imprisonment, Judge Darwall-Smith said: "David Lloyd, I take into account your reputation as a police officer but anyone listening to you give evidence to the jury could not help being amazed at your arrogance.

"You were entirely brazen in helping your friend Morgan and were prepared to conceal a quarter of a million pounds in cash for him.

"As a former police officer, you told the jury that tax evasion was not a crime in your opinion. It seems there was one law for Dai Lloyd and one for everybody else.

"It seems you made little secret of your relationship with Morgan. You clearly enjoyed Mr Morgan's high-life of fast cars, expensive jewellery and free holidays in Thailand, while you were receiving evidence that he was hands-on in drug operations.

"The number of arrests and searches that came to nothing because you had pre-warned the suspect through your friend Mr Morgan, does not bear thinking."

Christopher Barnett, who Jones used as a freelancer, would pretend to be account holders at financial institutions, the DVLA and utility companies to gain information on case subjects.

Barnett, of Vale of Glamorgan, who admitted one count of conspiracy to commit fraud by false representation with Jones and another count of fraud, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, suspended for two years.

'ABUSED TRUST'

After the verdict, Assistant Chief Constable Nick Croft of South Wales Police said: "These individuals held positions of trust and responsibility within South Wales Police. They abused these positions and let both the public and their colleagues down.

"The vast majority of our staff work very hard to keep south Wales safe and it is a shame that the actions of a few tarnish the professionalism of the organisation.

"Behaviour like this will not be tolerated, and I would like to reassure the public that police officers and staff employed by South Wales Police can expect to be dealt with robustly if they break the law or engage in other misconduct.

"These convictions have been successful as a direct result of a protracted and highly complex investigation which demonstrates the Force's commitment to tirelessly pursue officers who fail to live up to the high standards that we set.

"South Wales Police is committed to dealing with misconduct committed by both serving and retired officers. This force will not hesitate to pursue corruption by police officers and staff and if a similar situation arose again we would adopt the same strong line."

Police plea after pedestrian dies

SOUTH Wales Police are appealing for witnesses following a fatal accident on the A48 at Stormy Down, at about 11pm on Monday (March 22).

It involved a dark coloured stretch limousine vehicle travelling west towards Pyle.

Pedestrian Mr Paul Anthony Leach (29) of Bryntirion sustained injuries that proved fatal.

Police want to speak to anyone who can recall seeing a pedestrian walking east towards Bridgend, a short distance west of the speed camera.

Contact the road policing unit via 101 the non emergency number, Crimestoppers on 0800555111, or visit their local police station.

WALK FOR LIFE, RESIDENTS URGED

BRIDGEND residents are being urged to take part in Specsavers' Walk for Life in aid of the Kidney Wales Foundation on Sunday (March 28).

The walk will start from the Specsavers store on Adare Street at 11am. Another local walk is also taking place in Porthcawl, starting from The Seagull Inn at 11am. It is being supported by S4c presenters Sarra Elgan and Alex Jones (pictured right).

Further details about the walks are available at www.kidneywales.com.

Margaret's journey to Porthcawl via Glasgow and Buffalo, NY state!

ONE of Porthcawl's oldest residents, Margaret Turner of Pavilion Court, is 100 years old on April 9.

Occasionally, she can still be seen pushing her wheelie basket along John Street, heading for Somerfield, or sitting on one of the benches, eager to engage in a friendly conversation with passers-by.

Margaret and her husband Darwin moved to Porthcawl 16 years ago to live closer to their family.

Very soon they became popular members of Trinity church and involved in many of the societies for senior citizens.

They also regularly attended performances at the Pavilion. Sadly, Darwin passed away 12 years ago and Margaret has continued living in Pavilion Court to this day.

She thoroughly enjoys the companionship of the other residents and warden John and his wife Pearl.

Perhaps what is most striking about Margaret when you meet her is her American accent and the question "Are you American?" pre-empts a fascinating story.

Margaret was born in Glasgow in 1910 and when she was eight, together with her family she emigrated to the USA. In fact, her name, Margaret Birkby Stewart, can be found on the Wall of Immigrants on Ellis Island, New York.

The family settled in Buffalo, New York State, where Margaret went to school and later worked as a secretary. Life was a far cry from that experienced in our country in the late 20s and 30s. She had her own car, sailed and even played golf with a film star!

During the Second World War, Margaret worked for the Red Cross and at a recreation centre for the forces, met a dashing British trainee pilot Darwin.

Immediately, they fell in love and by June 1944, Margaret had travelled to Halifax, Novia Scotia, to join a ship, part of the largest convoy ever to cross the Atlantic Ocean, heading for the UK, in order to marry Darwin.

Margaret's ship broke down and it took a day and night for the convoy to overtake it! Eventually, she arrived at Liverpool and travelled to the Lake District to get married. Darwin and Margaret eventually settled in London where he served as a policeman.

Whoever meets Margaret is surprised by her lively personality and sharp memory. Her strength of character has helped her reach her centenary.

To this day, she enjoys watching Sky TV, playing bingo, coffee mornings and is eagerly looking forward to the birth of her latest great-grandchild in July. **VT**

Seabank sold to hotels chain

by JAYNE ISAAC

THE Seabank hotel in Porthcawl has been sold: news of the deal came through yesterday (Wednesday) and was confirmed by owner Rohit Patel, who has owned the Seabank for the past 13 years with his wife Dipika.

The new owners are Leisureplex Ltd who own a chain of 17 hotels in UK coastal resorts and aim to develop business at The Seabank.

Mr Patel said that this was very good news, as it secured the future of the 67-bedroom hotel and the jobs of the 24 staff.

"This firm was looking for something in Porthcawl to cater for their growing holiday business. We took the hotel as far as we could, but it needed to take a step up, especially with marketing and this firm will be able to do that.

"The Seabank will benefit from being part of a group with things like centralised booking and marketing.

"There is a need to draw people into Porthcawl from outside of Wales and I hope that the Seabank will now lead the way."

Porthcawl council leader David Deere said that this was excellent news.

"The Seabank is a hugely important hotel in the town, providing not only accommodation for visitors but also function suites for dinners, dances, weddings and other events. It is part of the fabric of Porthcawl."

He said that the takeover would secure much needed employment in the town and also retain facilities needed to boost tourism.

'TOWN TWINNING IS ABOUT CULTURE NOT RUGBY JUNKETS'

Bridgend Town Council affirms

TOWN twinning exchanges between Bridgend and Villenave D'Ornan in France must not be allowed to degenerate into rugby-based junkets.

That's the view of Bridgend Town Council which will be seeking to add some cultural dimension to future visits.

Bridgend hosted a party from France on the weekend of the Wales-France International in Cardiff. The French visitors were not interested in taking part in any cultural activities during the trip.

Coun Eileen McIlveen said that during the visit, they managed to pin the French down to dates for the following two years for visits by pupils on exchange trips.

These dates have now been agreed by the heads of all schools involved.

She said that nothing has been arranged for the adults apart from a return visit to France by Bridgend members in September.

She went on: "Our financial position is dire. We have set up a small sub committee to discuss what steps to take and they are in hand. We may approach the town council for a grant. Unless we get funding, town twinning will collapse."

Coun David Unwin stated that a meaningful exchange was needed and that a forward plan for at least two years was required.

Coun Bob Burns observed that the purpose of town twinning was essentially cultural and two years was not a long time to organise events.

"We had the idea of a musical exchange, but the dates were not agreed to by the French representatives. People are being thwarted by the responses from the French. We should have proper cultural exchanges and not rugby trips," he insisted.

Coun McIlveen felt there was a need for an in-depth discussion about the purpose of the twinning.

"Funding is no longer available even for pupil exchanges. There is certainly no finance available for rugby or other sports based trips.

"Funding from Europe is only available for large scale cultural exchanges, preferably involving several countries. A visit to a rugby match does not meet their requirements."

She said that if the French wanted a rugby exchange, they would have to pay their own way.

Coun Diane Burns said that organising a cultural exchange with choirs, dance groups and the like would require a lot of commitment and time.

She said that people were coming up with ideas but nothing was happening afterwards.

A further update on twinning will be received later.

The Porthcawl Rotarians thank Pencoed store for trolley dash

THE Rotary Club of Porthcawl would like to thank the Co-operative store at Pyle, especially their staff members Mrs Beverley Williams and Mrs Carol Gore, for allowing a trolley dash to be organised at their store.

The event was won by Mrs Margaret Watkins of Pyle. Many thanks to all who entered the 'dash'.

We hope you will have better luck next time and in the meantime, we are grateful for your support of Rotary charities.

Tudor Ralph (Rotary Club of Porthcawl)

POPULAR POOL STAYS CLOSED

A LEISURE pool used by thousands of people from Bridgend county borough is still in limbo.

The old Afan Lido on Aberavon seafront, known in more recent years as the Aquadome, has been closed since suffering structural damage in a fire before Christmas.

The blaze resulted in the structure being contaminated by asbestos which was disturbed by the fire in previously sealed areas.

Responding to questions from The GEM about its future, Russell Ward, head of leisure services at Neath Port Talbot Council, said that it was not likely that the pool would be re-opened in its present form.

The building was insured and talks are under way with insurers.

Councillors have not made any formal decisions about the future of the building and officers are preparing a range of options which will go out for public consultation.

The council has said it is fully committed to a comprehensive public dialogue on the future of this iconic building.

Council not just about rubbish collection, careers event is told

ABOVE: Kath Durbin (BCBC group manager, Post 14 education and training), Borough Mayor Jefferson Tildesley and Debra Beeke (BCBC human resources)

A BRIDGEND 14-19 Learning Pathways event, organised by the 14-19 Network at Bridgend College's Pencoed campus, attracted more than 1,600 year-10 pupils from the borough's comprehensives, plus students from Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari.

Pupils were able to discuss career options and meet would-be employers including Bridgend County Borough Council, Cardiff City FC, the Ambulance Service, Cardiff University, the University of Glamorgan, and the Armed Forces.

The two-day event featured more than 40 exhibitors promoting learning and job opportunities. A mock car boot sale by Bridgend County Borough Council illustrated its role in public protection.

The 14-19 Learning Pathways agenda is promoted by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Coun Jefferson Tildesley, who officially opened the event, said: "I was really impressed with the exhibitors who had put a lot of time and effort into creating stands which young people could relate to.

"It was a pleasure to see the pupils showing so much interest in the different areas and talking about their future.

"Some came with a very clear direction on what they want to do when they leave school, but for others it was a chance to think about their future."

117 industrial units standing empty – council

THERE are 117 empty industrial units of varying sizes currently available on industrial estates throughout Bridgend county borough.

This information was given to Coun David Unwin in reply to a question he asked at the last meeting of Bridgend County Borough Council.

Coun Unwin asked how much industrial land was in use, empty and undeveloped on local industrial estates. He also wanted to know how the area was being marketed to potential new industrial employers.

In December, the number of empty units stood at 139, amounting to 1.1m square feet of floor space.

The largest amount of available industrial space is at Bridgend Industrial Estate where there are 59 empty units, including the former Sony factory, which has been divided into 11 units amounting to 328,000 sq feet.

There are 12 at Waterton, 11 at Brackla and Litchard; 12 in Brynmenyn, nine at Village Farm in Pyle, eight in Penllwyngwent in the Ogmore Valley and four at Abergarw.

The council said that it markets these sites in a number of ways, including through its marketing plan, regular contacts with the Welsh Assembly, property agents, its website and co-operating with other south Wales authorities to bring employment into the area.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 01)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
25 Thur	01.02	7.5	14.01	7.5
26 Fri	02.41	7.9	15.19	8.1
27 Sat	03.46	8.7	16.25	9.0
28 Sun	05.39	9.6	18.14	9.7
29 Mon	06.33	10.1	19.01	10.2
30 Tues	07.18	10.5	19.41	10.3
31 Wed	08.03	10.5	20.20	10.3
01 Thur	08.43	10.2	21.01	10.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend Westminster office - 02072194417. Constituency office - 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm (by appointment only). Telephone 01656 750002.
HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777
JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034
CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320
Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales Telephone 01639 643549
BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 – Open: Monday: 10am to 2pm – information only; Tuesday to Friday: 10am to 12.30pm – advice sessions. Tuesday to Friday 12.30pm to 1.30pm – information only.
MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau **01656 734662**
POLICE Bridgend 01656 655555
Porthcawl 01656 785411
Maesteg 01656 732122
CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
GAS (escapes and emergency) **0800 111999**
ELECTRICITY (power cuts) **0800 0520400**
WATER SUPPLY (emergency) **0800 0520130**
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
CHILDLINE 0800 1111
NSPCC 0800 800500
RSPCA 0300 123 0744
WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139
Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479
Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490
BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Housing service
(General inquiries) **01656 643643;**
(emergencies out of hours) **01656 643643;**
(homelessness) **01656 643643.**
EDUCATION 01656 643643
LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 01656 642677
HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) **01656 643643**
HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES
(outside normal working hours) **07831 143600**
SOCIAL SERVICES
(general enquiries) **01656 642200**
SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCIES
(outside normal working hours) **01443 204010**
HOSPITALS Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend **01656 752752/668090.**
Bridgend and District NHS Trust **01656 752752/668090.**
VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) **01656 810400**
TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS
Brackla Community Council **01656 767072**
Bridgend Town Council **01656 659943**
Cefn Cribwr Community Council **01656 741354**
Coity Higher Community Council **01656 656358**
Cornelly Community Council **07882 044798**
Pyle Community Council **0790 460 4049**
Coychurch Higher Comm Council **01656 863418**
Coychurch Lower Comm Council **01656 647216**
Garw Valley Community Council **01656 736751**
Laleston Community Council **01656 656506**
Llangynwyd Lower Comm Council **01656 720086**
Llangynwyd Middle Comm Council **01656 738804**
Maesteg Town Council **01656 732631**
Merthyr Mawr Community Council **01656 670058**
Newcastle Higher Comm Council **01446 750663.**
Ogmore Valley Community Council **01656 849402**
Pencoed Town Council **01656 869031**
Porthcawl Town Council **01656 782215**
St Brides Minor Comm Council **01656 725031**
Ynysawdre Community Council **01656 736751**

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Council challenges mystery shopper's findings over post office waiting times

THE findings of a 'mystery shopper' who visited Bridgend Post Office and reported average waiting times of between five and 10 minutes, are being challenged by Bridgend Town Council.

The council complained to the Post Office about increased waiting times at the crown office in Dunraven Place following refurbishment last August, which saw the separate shop counter removed, meaning that everyone has to wait in the central queue – even if they are buying a stamp.

Councillors also complained that people buying Lottery tickets are now clogging up the queue and increasing delays, as staff have to leave their positions to deal with the Lottery sales.

In their response, the Post Office stated that they do not record waiting times on a day-to-day basis. However, a mystery shopper service has been engaged, which covers 1,000 branches a month.

The aim is to serve the majority of customers within five minutes and all within 10, but there will be times, such as Christmas and times of unexpectedly high demand, when this is not possible.

The mystery shopper records how long he/she waited in the queue to be served, how many people were in the queue and how many counters were open.

This system identifies problem areas which can be taken up by the local manger.

Mystery shopper results for this branch over the past ten months show that average waiting times were within five to ten minutes and there were an average of less than ten customers in the queue, with four positions open.

The refurbishment of the branch saw the removal of the Post Shop because the nature of sales had changed in recent years. Sales from the shop were dropping while costs were increasing.

At the same time, there was a growing demand for financial services like insurances, mortgages, loans and savings.

As detailed discussions with customers are needed on these occasions, it was decided to create two new enclosed areas in the space that was freed up. This means that customers can discuss their financial needs in privacy.

The Post Office claimed that the move has been very successful.

The letter added: "However, we would like to acknowledge the reported comments made at the Town Council meeting regarding the quick purchase items like Lottery and stamps and the perceived effect on queueing times."

Coun David Unwin said he would like to know who the mystery shopper was: "They say they only wait five to 10 minutes, but they do not say which days, or at what times they visited the branch.

"We have made our comments and, hopefully, it will make them sit up and the service will improve. This is not a criticism of the staff, who do an excellent job – but I question if there are enough of them at peak times."

Coun Bob Burns said that the council should not put this reply into a pending tray.

"We should ask what are the terms of reference for this mystery shopper. What times do they visit the branch? We should ask for the hard evidence that they have based their reply on.

"We need to challenge their data. We should put in a Freedom of Information request to get the information we need," he insisted.

Coun Hadyn Morgan said he was there recently and the queue was out through the door: "I waited for 20 minutes," he added.

It was agreed to request the information provided by the mystery shopper so that the council could analyse it for themselves.

A FOND FAREWELL TO HILDA THE MILK!

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT

THE funeral of a well-known Nottage figure, 'Hilda the Milk' took place earlier this month at St David's Church.

Hilda, who was 96, was born and grew up in Primrose Cottage, Nottage, and for many years was a familiar figure delivering milk around the village.

Her husband John was a local herdsman and passed away in the 1970s.

A family member told The GEM that Hilda's happiest childhood memories were of making her way along her 'beloved' Moor Lane on her milk round.

As a final tribute, the funeral cortege, with black horses drawing a traditional hearse, travelled through Moor lanr on its way to Porthcawl Cemetery.

Hilda was interred with her parents and her husband.

RIGHT: *Hilda, who was a familiar figure in Nottage.*

A curious tale of hats at St Clare's school!

Sophie, Grace and Kyra.

A LITTLE bit of Wonderland came to St Clare's School in Porthcawl recently when year-6 pupils designed mad hats for a tea party.

Children from the preparatory school have been working on a project with Mrs Williams, who teaches art in the senior school, to create the 'most curious thing I ever saw' by designing and making hats for a 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party'.

The hats were produced from a range of materials and the project gave the pupils the opportunity to experience the art and textiles lessons they will be starting when they join the senior school next year.

Mrs Williams reported: "Each of the pupils came up with some very bright and creative ideas and did exceptionally well. As a treat, we are taking them to watch the new Tim Burton film of *Alice in Wonderland* which is currently in the cinema."

Head of St Clare's, Catherine Barnard, commented: "What a great display of creativity and colour! We are looking forward to welcoming our year-6s into the senior school in September."

O Mouse! – Carla Prinsloo with her Mouse-themed top hat.

Samuel and Charlie with their playing card themed hats.

Ogmore MP's surgery

OGMORE MP Huw Irranca-Davies will be holding a surgery in the Garw Valley on the afternoon of Friday, March 26 by appointment only.

To find out further details, telephone the MP's constituency office and advice centre on 01656 737777.

Read your GEM online at bridgend-today.co.uk or porthcawl-today.co.uk

Local singers in competition at Margam Abbey music event

THE annual music competition at Margam Abbey took place on March 11.

It was a memorable evening with the following competitors taking part and performing approximately a 15-minute selection each:

Elizabeth Hunt (clarinet) from Porthcawl Comprehensive School who performed *Fantasie Stuke* (2nd and 3rd Movements), *Duo Concertant and Sonatina* (1st Movement).

Stephan Ulberini (singer-baritone) from Archbishop McGrath RC Comprehensive School who sang *Caro mio ben*, *Why blame thee now*, *Les Roses d'Ispahan*, *Maria (West Side Story)* and *Money O!*.

Jacob Curtis (alto saxophone) from Archbishop McGrath RC Comprehensive School, who performed *Saraband and Allegro*, *Rhapsody* and *Tango* and *Charleston.*

Samantha Thalayasingam (singer-soprano) from Bryntirion Comprehensive School who sang *O del mio dolce ardour*, *Notre amour*, *Ophelia's song, Voi, che sapete (The Marriage of Figaro)* and *Think of me (The Phantom of the Opera).*

Luke Millard (cello) from Ysgol Gyfun Tstalyfera who performed *Kol Nidrei and Concerto* (1st Movement).

The winner was Luke Millard, who performed splendidly. All competitors were praised by the judges, Jonathan Gulliford, Stephen Dunn and Jeffrey Francis, and were certainly appreciated by the audience who gave each of them a resounding round of applause.

All performers were accompanied by their individual tutors on the grand piano, and special praise must be given to them for producing such talented musicians.

Luke won £300, while Elizabeth, Stephan, Jacob and Samantha each won £50.

Left to right: Elizabeth Hunt, Samantha Thalayasingam, Stephan Ulberini, Jacob Curtis and Luke Millard.

MP drops in and takes off with Air Squadron at the MoD St Athan!

BRIDGEND MP, Madeleine Moon recently took time to visit the University Air Squadron based at MoD St Athan.

The MP who is also a member of the Armed Forces parliamentary scheme, has already been out to Afghanistan to visit troops and see at first hand their front line role.

She was keen to find out more about youth engagement with the RAF, particularly the role of the University of Wales Air Squadron (UWAS), whose members are drawn from across the UK but who are studying at universities in Wales.

She was also keen to find out more about the work of No 1 Air Experience Flight, which is available to Air Cadets from 13½ years plus from Wales, to be able to experience flying in a GROB Tutor training aircraft, with a qualified Service pilot.

A St Athan spokeswoman reported that Mrs Moon was met by UWAS Officer Commanding, Squadron Leader Phil Atkinson, who escorted her to the squadron headquarters for an overview of activities and experiences students are engaged in.

She also met the Commanding Officer MoD St Athan, Commodore Anthony King.

"The highlight of the visit was the chance to walk or, in this case, fly in the students' footsteps" when Sqn Ldr Atkinson took Mrs Moon for a familiarisation flight over the Vale of Glamorgan.

Sqn Ldr Atkinson commented: "Flying is just part of what we do and it was a pleasure to be able to conclude Mrs Moon's visit with an Air Experience flight so that she could feel what it is like for the younger students to be able to put in to practice their flying theory in a safe and controlled environment.

"It is so important that the UAS and the AEF is recognised for the work it does with young people. Joining a UAS provides the perfect introduction to students considering an RAF career, whether in a flying or ground-based role.

"However, there is no obligation to sign up and the personal development they receive gives them a head start in whatever career path they choose as will the in-depth knowledge they gain into military roles and functions."

For Mrs Moon, this was the first time that she had flown in a training aircraft and when she arrived back on the ground said that it was a wonderful experience she will never forget.

"Mrs Moon continues to support the military via the Armed Forces parliamentary scheme of which she is a firm supporter," the St Athan spokesman added

RIGHT: Sqn Ldr Atkinson, and Commodore King watch as Madeleine Moon MP signs the visitors' book)

EMAIL US!

● WE welcome your news, views and sports items.
Please email them to the Editorial Department at:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Smooth path to healthy eating!

NURSERY pupils at St Clare's School are learning all about the importance of healthy eating and fruit and vegetables and where their food comes from.

They had a visit from an organic produce delivery service (Riverford) and were shown freshly grown winter crops such as parsnips and leeks and heard about the different seasons for growing different vegetables.

"The children have also been learning about food through their senses by making fruit smoothies and tasting fruit tea," explained headteacher Catherine Barnard.

"In St Clare's we teach our pupils the importance of eating healthily. We also develop an understanding of the issues to do with food production and sustainability from an early age as part of our commitment to personal and social education and developing an understanding of the wider world"

Pupils learn all about healthy eating fom the experts.

Buckaneers' invitation to a carnival

THE Porthcawl Buckaneers Carnival will be held on Saturday, July 24.

The theme is 'Cartoon movies' and organisers are seeking entries of floats, gambos and walkers.

All enquiries to Kerry Marlow (01656 771457) or visit the website www.porthcawlbuckaneers.co.uk

NEWS - IN BRIEF

BRIDGEND Town Council has come out in favour of moving the town library from Wyndham Street to the Recreation Centre.

Members received a report on proposals from the borough council to reconfigure facilities at the recreation centre to incorporate the library and agreed it should have full backing.

LIGHTS at Quarella Road are working at last, town councillors were told. Half the lights in the wall at the street were out of order because of problems with a fuse box.

THE Old Buildings Preservation and Restoration Trust has told BCBC that it intends to sell St John's Hospice on Newcastle Hill on the open market.

The mediaeval building is the oldest in Bridgend. Options for the building are to be explored by the council's conservation and design section.

A NEW litter bin has been placed by BCBC near the new ARC clinic at the bottom of Quarella Road, after a request was made by Bridgend Town Council.

A LETTER of congratulation has been sent by Bridgend Town Council to BCBC commending staff for the way in which they cleaned up rubbish from the Wildmill Estate that had remained uncollected because of the snow.

The bags had been ripped open by dogs and the contents were scattered around. Members confirmed that the area was now free of litter and in an acceptable condition.

BRIDGEND Town Council is to ask to receive information on planning applications as printed paper copies because of problems with getting the information on-line.

PORTHCAWL Town Council has already expressed reservations about changing to e-mail and Maesteg Town Council has refused to change, sticking to the paper copies.

BCBC has been trying to persuade councils to switch, but members pointed out that the council delivers the plans by courier, who is bringing other items so does not incur postage costs.

COITY Higher Community Council has agreed to donate £50000 towards the cost of providing a skateboard park in Bridgend.

The scheme is being put forward by the town council and Laleston Community Council.

BRIDGEND Town Council has resolved to give £1,000 to Bridgend Town Twinning provided they try and raise money themselves.

Their financial position was described at a council meeting as "dire" and it was stated that the twinning committee could collapse without financial support.

A YOUTH shelter may be placed at Wildmill estate. The Town council has met Wildmill Communities First about the project.

The shelter would be placed on V2C land in a location assessed and approved by police.

It would be donated and erected free of charge by BCBC. The town council has agreed to take over insurance and maintenance of the shelter.

BRIDGEND Town Council wants to know what happened to money given to Valleys to Coast Housing Association to upgrade the CCTV cameras in Wildmill.

Councillors heard that an in-depth review of the CCTV system had been carried out by BCBC and revealed that the cameras in Wildmill were deficient.

Town councillors said that they had given funds five years to pay for the cameras to be upgraded and are concerned that they do not meet standards.

V2C will be asked for information about what happened to the money they received.

PADDLE Homes have lost their appeal to be allowed to build 75 dwellings on the old railway embankment running from Waunscil Avenue to the rear of Morfa Street, Bridgend.

The area separates new and old Brackla. An inspector appointed by the Welsh Assembly dismissed the firm's appeal on the grounds that their plans did not make provision for affordable housing, as required by planning policy.

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Who wants to build what and where in the county borough?

Mrs L Clarke – **70 Rushfield Gardens, Bridgend** – felling of tree (ash).

Mrs V Dalton – **land at Ton Phillip Farm, Ffordd y Gyfraith, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend** – reserved matters application for diversification from agriculture to tourism – fun farm (ref P/07/357/OUT).

Mr D Jehu – **34 Rushfield Gardens, Bridgend** – car port to side of house.

Mr M Oats – **34 Angelton Green, Penyfai, Bridgend** – first floor extension to front.

Mr M Bushrod – **9 Ty Merchant, Pencoed** – alterations and extensions.

Ms E Hopkins – **Ty'r Adar, Ystrad Waun, Pencoed** – proposed first floor extensions to provide bedrooms.

Mr A Carter – **10 Juniper Close, Porthcawl** – two Juliet balconies to side elevation.

Mr P Milbourn – **37 Beechwood Grove, Pencoed** – extension to dwelling to form assisted living accommodation.

Taylor Wimpey – **land at Tythegston Close, Nottage, Porthcawl** – construction of eight detached houses and associated drainage.

Mrs Helen Barnes – **2C St Theodore's Way, Brynmenyn Industrial Estate, Brynmenyn, Bridgend** – extension to existing vehicle repair unit for storage of accident damaged vehicles.

Mr M Shajahan – **1A Coegnant Road, Maesteg** – change the use from office/shop to Indian takeaway.

Mr A Bunston – **54 West Road, Bridgend** – first floor extension.

Mr G Rees – **Simonstone Workshop, Simonstone, Coity, Bridgend** – demolish existing w/shop and store (commercial premises) and erect single storey three bed dwelling.

Mr A Derrington – **15 St Patrick's Drive, Wildmill, Bridgend** – proposed kitchen extension.

Mr D White – **former Mount Zion Chapel, Station Road, Nantymoel** – conversion of former Mount Zion Chapel into one dwelling.

Mr A Lewis – **2 New Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend** – erection of steel external staircase and fire exist door.

Vale of Glamorgan Council – **Unit B, Valegate Retail Park, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff** – mixed use development including retail, garden centre, office development etc at unit B.

TB Davies (UK) Ltd – **Waterton House, Brocastle Avenue, Waterton Industrial Estate, Bridgend** – extension to existing industrial unit.

YOUNG SCIENTISTS THRIVE IN LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL'S SCIENTIFIC CLUBS

LITCHARD Primary School is one of a number of schools in Wales celebrating the end of National Science Fortnight with an open day to show parents the extent to which all levels in the school, from nursery to year-6, are involved in science projects.

Staff believe that Litchard made the largest contribution in Wales, with 130 children in extra-curricular science projects. The three teachers who led the science project (held in conjunction with EBP Education Business Partnerships) were Jo Matthews, Sian Duffy, and Kim Trahar.

The school's junior eco committee are allocating eco areas within the school boundaries, to include a herb and sensory garden and a woodland walk.

The Mayor presented a Star award to young members of the science club *(pictured above right).*

ABOVE LEFT:
Mayor Jeff Tildesley and his consort meet some of the pupils.

ABOVE:
The pupils who give up their lunch hour playtime to go to the school's regular science cl;ub were presented with 'Star Award' certificates by the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Jeff Tildesley. They are pictured with their teacher, Kin Trahar.

ABOVE:
The school's forensic scientists are looking for clues!

LEFT:
These young scientists were learning about the power and the properties of magnets, and finding out how they are used in everyday life!

ABOVE: Pupils working on a paper-making project.

Putting the finishing touches to a hovercraft.

LEFT:
These pupils' experiments involved working with mirrors.

ABOVE: These pupils were making a compostor.

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT

WE welcome your news, views and sports items.
Please email them to the Editorial Department at:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

CANTATA FOR EASTER

THE Pencoed and District Choral Society will be presenting *Jerusalem Joy* by Roger Jones, at various venues next month.

The musical cantata written by Roger Jones of Christian Music Ministries, retells the series of events from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection on Easter Sunday with soloist David Mayberry.

The evening will also include other songs from the society's repertoire.

April 7 – Church of St Julius and St Aaron, Llanharan.

April 30 – St Crallo's Church, Coychurch.

April 31 – St David's Church, Pencoed. (All performances at 7pm).

Enquiries to musical director Eric McDonald on 01656 865633.

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THOUSANDS OF BRIDGEND PEOPLE MAKE LOCAL 'SPORT RELIEF' A REAL SUCCESS

On your marks, get set, go – for Sport Relief 2010!

SPORT RELIEF arrived on Sunday, March 20 at Bridgend recreation fields.

Through the charity, people across the country are brought together to get involved in sporting activity, raise money and change lives.

As you can see from Mandy Thomas's pictures, people were keen to get on the track and go through their paces – with a little stretching beforehand!

Photos by
MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347)
These and other pictures of the event can be viewed on
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

YOUNG AND OLD RACE TOGETHER TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SPORT RELIEF CHARITY

Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347) These and other pictures of the event can be viewed on
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Pen-y-Fai WI

THE Pen-y-Fai WI meeting on March 15 was opened by president Jean Griffiths who congratulated members whose birthdays were in March.

Secretary Chris Phillips read a list of forthcoming events, among which were a quiz evening, a Friday night hop in Llantwit Fardre, the country show in North Cornelly community centre, a Victoriana day at Coedymwstr, which includes an exhibition of interesting articles, and a Nordic walking taster day.

Because it is the 25th anniversary of this section of the Women's Institute, each month they hope to have a speaker whose subject matter will be silver. The speaker this month was Ann Mahoney from Dewi Griffiths shop in Cardiff, who started her talk with hallmarks.

Hallmarks on silver were originally introduced in 1300 with a statute of Edward I, as a method of proving that the silver object contained the correct amount of silver, since pure silver is a very soft metal, and consequently any object made from silver requires some base metal to be added to it to strengthen it.

Chris Phillips gave a vote of thanks to the speaker.

The raffle was won by Anna Jones, and the competition based on a favourite and unusual item was won by Pam Padgett with a silver locket.

Angela Smith proposed trips to see *Oklahoma* and *Hairspray* in Cardiff, and a weekend away in Stratford-Upon-Avon.

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 19 at 7.30pm in Pen-y-Fai school hall. Visitors welcome. The speaker will give a talk on silver antiques.

Ewenny Priory

THE recent concert at the Priory, in which the Maesteg Gleemen took part, raised £425 for Bridgend YMCA.

The choir rehearses at the British Legion Club, Commercial Street, Maesteg on Monday and Thursday evenings, visitors welcome.

Oliver Llidiard (Lion), Nico Fitzgibbon (Tinman), Rhian Hughes (Dorothy), Jenna Crocombe (Scarecrow).

Choir concert

GARW Valley male choir is taking part in a concert to help raise funds for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute appeal at Cowbridge town hall tomorrow (Friday, March 26).

New books

PAUL BOOTH, headteacher of Ogmore Vale primary school thanks everyone who supported the recent book fair.

It was a huge success, with £1,678 being spent, of which the 60 per cent commission has been spent on new books for the school. They have now arrived and will be distributed around the classes as soon as possible.

Mr Craddock's class have an assembly today (March 25), and all relatives of the children are invited.

The school council is also holding an Easter bonnet parade today; each entry costs £1 with prizes for the best hats.

If any parent wishes to have their children attend the nursery in the next school year, they should submit an admission by tomorrow (March 26).

Food for thought

ON Saturday, March 27. lunches will be provided in the Smyrna Chapel, Penyfai hall between 12noon-1.15pm, consisting of genuine home made soups supplied by the congregation and fresh bread.

Everyone is welcome, and proceeds go to Christian Aid.

Nursery invite

TONDU primary school's nursery class invites relatives and friends to a coffee morning at 9.30am on Friday, March 26.

There will be a song and dance routine.

An Easter disco has been organised at the school for the pupils today (March 25) between 6pm-7.30pm. Relatives with children in Mrs Evans' class are asked to stay with their children for the evening; admission is £1.

The PTA are organising an Easter egg hunt tomorrow (March 26) and children are asked to pay 50p to participate.

Years 5 and 6 were taken to see the *Wizard of Oz* at Ynysawdre comprehensive on March 15 and the school was pleased to see many past pupils taking part.

Year-2 were taken to the Porthcawl Pavilion to receive their Crest science awards on March 17.

Team search

ABERKENFIG boys & girls club is looking for children to join their under-8 football team.

The children train on Thursdays between 5pm-6pm on Ynysawdre comprehensive school play fields. The coaching prepares children to progress through to the older age teams.

All matches are played on Sunday mornings, with home games at Pandy park. Contact Adrian Parsons on 07861 643190 for more information.

Easter services

EASTER week services will be held as follows:

Holy Monday, March 29 – St David's church, Wyndham – 9.45am; Holy Monday, March 29 – St David's church, Pontycymer – 7pm; Holy Tuesday, March 30 – St David's church, Wyndham – 9.45am and 7pm; Holy Wednesday, March 31 – St David's church, Wyndham – 9.45am; Holy Wednesday, March 31 – St Bride's church, Llansantffraid – 7pm; Maundy Thursday, April 1 – St David's church, Wyndham – 7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper with foot washing and watch of the Passion; Maundy Thursday, April 1 – St David's church, Betws – 7pm Holy Eucharist, washing of feet and stripping of the altar.

Wizard of Oz

I SAW the above show at Ynysawdre Comprehensive School last week, and I was really impressed, as months of work must have been required by pupils and staff to prepare such an elaborate show.

The spectacular sets were designed and made by Stefan Fabin and the arts department. The costumes, which were varied and colourful, were made and organised by Carol Warlow.

One of the performers was disabled and in an electric wheelchair, but the school had made an elaborate ramp which she was able to ride up to act her part on the stage.

The music and choreography was outstanding and the following must be congratulated: Andrea Stockton, Zoë Western, Mike Plowman, Delyth Welsh and Katrin Budd.

Head girl Rhian Hughes was excellent as Dorothy; her acting, dancing and singing was faultless. This young lady is a true all rounder, not only is she brilliant on stage but is a musician as well, playing the clarinet, saxophone and piano.

Jenna Crocombe is a British champion in sequence dancing, and her performance and dancing routines as the 'Scarecrow', were comical and really well done.

'Tinman' Nico Fitzgibbon, had a fine singing voice – not only that, but his acting was great.

As for the 'Lion', Oliver Llidiard – what a comedian! – his timing was impeccable and his song and dance routines deserve a special mention.

Also notable were Rhia Davies 'The Wicked Witch', Jasmin Wadlow 'Glinda, the Good Witch', Ben Harris and Sean Howe 'Emerald city guards' and Matthew Steddy as 'Oz'.

All the others who put on such brilliant dance and song routines must be congratulated. Well done to everyone for a thoroughly enjoyable evening!

Children entertain

OVER the last four weeks, Aberkenfig retired persons club members have been exuberantly entertained by pupils from Tondu primary school.

Mr Lewis came with class 1 and 2, who put on a skit about astronauts landing on the moon.

Mrs Tuck came with class 4 pupils who explained the advantages and disadvantages of electricity.

Miss Watson came with class 5 and 6 children to talk about words. They explained how the meaning of words can be altered by the way they are spoken.

Ms O'Brien came with the remainder of class 5 and 6, to explain how to be healthy, by eating a correct diet of carbo-hydrates and proteins.

The club members would like to thank Mrs S Pilcher, the headteacher, for involving the children in entertaining the members, many of whom are isolated and the only company they have is on Wednesday afternoons in the club.

The club meets at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig every Wednesday between 1.45 and 4pm, visitors and new members are welcome. Telephone Joyce/Tom on 01656 720823/720026 for information.

Guest speaker

THE Horeb Baptist Church, Nantymoel special guest speaker at 6pm on Sunday, March 28 is evangelist Dennis Petty.

On Saturday, March 27 at 9am the church will be open for men's breakfasts.

Charity dance

TICKETS for the dance supporting the Sandville self help centre can be obtained from Chris on 01656 669106.

The dance will be based on the rock and roll era and takes place on March 26 at the Ogmore Constituency Labour Party Social Club, Bryntirion, between 7.30pm-12.30am.

The entry charge will be £5 and all money raised will be donated to the centre, which is completely run by volunteers.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
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'Rescue Helicopter cut backs will put lives at risk' – claim

CONSERVATIVE regional AM Alun Cairns (South Wales West) says he will challenge the Ministry of Defence over its plans to scale back operational hours for the air sea rescue helicopter based at RAF Chivenor.

Mr Cairns said that plans to withdraw this helicopter service at night, by reducing it from a 24-hour service to a 12-hour one, would impact on the safety of people along the south Wales coast.

"I represent an area which stretches from Gower along Swansea Bay to the Vale of Glamorgan.

Thousands of visitors flock to our coast daily in summer and I fear that lives will be put at risk by this proposal.

"The Bristol Channel has dangerous currents and tides and we need a rescue helicopter service available 24 hours a day which is within easy flying distance," he maintained.

"The Ministry has said that from 2012 the area will be covered at night by crews from RAF Culdrose in Cornwall or RAF Valley in Anglesey.

Both bases are further away - and in the case of Anglesey, it's an hour's flying time.

The increase in time it will take to get a helicopter on station could literally mean the difference between life and death."

RAF Chivenor handled 339 call-outs in 2009 – with more than 100 of these taking place at night.

"Opponents of the plan fear that the two other bases, which have their own areas to cover, will not have the capacity to take on the extra call-outs that this plan entails.

"Only one crew is based at each site so once that's on a call, there is no stand-by crew or helicopter.

This proposal could put lives at risk not just at sea but also in the mountains of south and mid Wales which Chivenor also covers."

Mr Cairns will back the campaign to keep Chivenor a 24-hour operation.

The main opposition to MoD proposals has come from West Country councils, police forces and MPs, but the campaign is now seeking support from the Welsh side of the Channel.

Burglars hunted in Pontyclun

POLICE are investigating a suspected distraction burglary at Heol y Bryn, Pontyclun, between 12.15-1pm on Saturday (March 20).

"An 83-year-old female victim allowed access to two males purporting to be from the council after being told that they needed to gain access to her kitchen sink," a police spokeswoman reported.

"It is suspected that whilst the victim was out of the kitchen, the males gained entry to other areas of the house before leaving the address."

One man was described as white, 30-40 years old, around 5ft 8in, of medium build, and wearing blue or grey all-in-one overalls.

The other was described as shorter, aged 20-30 years, wearing jeans and a 'work'-type jacket.

Contact South Wales Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

GEM QUIZ LEAGUE ROUND-UP

Royal Oak Nomads clinch an amazing seventh title win

PRIDE of place this week must go to the two teams who have secured the championship in their respective divisions – they are Royal Oak Nomads and Prince of Wales 'B'.

For the Nomads it was an amazing fifth title in succession and seventh in all. In their final game at home to Llynfi Arms, they scored 55 against Llynfi's 38.

It was only 29-25 after the written section, but then the match was virtually settled by their 11-0 score in the individual round and even a good call-out round by Llynfi couldn't make an inroad into Nomads' score.

It means they finished the season with a superb average of 50.17.

Prince of Wales 'B', who had an excellent average of 46.00, won their last game by 49-42 against Laleston Inn 'B'.

Other results were, in Division 1, Maesteg Catholic Club, already sure of runners-up position, beat third-placed Mackworth Arms 48-43.

Then come Llynfi Arms and Royal Oak Royals 42-33 winners at Tondu Railway Club, who are joint sixth with Oldcastle 'A' who beat Llangeinor AFC 52-37.

Laleston Inn 'A' beat already relegated Prince of Wales 'A' by 45 - 37.

A word in praise of Llangewydd Arms who, in only their second season, have finished second in Division Two.

They beat fifth place Oldcastle 'B' 48-42. Then there's a five-point gap to third place which is shared by Cabo Roche and Pheasant Poachers who lost 45-42 away to Cabo.

The remaining games were even closer affairs. Gamekeepers won 44-43 at Heol-y-Cyw RFC, and the two teams holding up the rest, Oddfellows Arms and Pyle RFC, ended with a win by the latter by 43-42.

Here are this week's posers:

1 Which US state has 254 counties – nearly 100 more than any other state?

2 Which group of ancient people invaded the Roman Empire in the 4th century AD and settled in France and Spain establishing a monarchy that lasted until the early 8th century?

3 In 1990, which athlete broke David Hemery's long standing British record for the 400 metres hurdles?

4 Which historical figure is mentioned in the lyrics of the Queen song 'Don't stop me now?'

ANDY RUDGE

Answers
1 Texas.
2 Visigoths.
3 Kris Akabusi.
4 Lady Godiva.

Bridgend Council tightens up procedures on 'spying' laws

BRIDGEND County Borough Council is tightening up its procedures over the use of 'spying' laws.

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) gives local authorities the power to carry out surveillance operations in connection with criminal investigations.

As a result of new guidelines laid down by the Home Office, the council has now limited the number of senior managers able to authorise the use of RIPA powers to six.

The cabinet will also receive regular reports about how the authority is using RIPA to ensure that it is being used consistently with the council's policy.

The council has said that it almost always uses the act to investigate serious trading standards and public protection offences, as well as housing benefit fraud.

Deputy council leader David Sage said that the council used RIPA in a responsible manner to fight criminals and others preying on vulnerable people.

"We would never use it to find evidence of whether a family is living in a school catchment area. If we wish to use these powers, we have to prove that it is both necessary and proportionate to the matter being investigated.

"The council was recently inspected by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner, which was reassured at the level of diligence demonstrated by the council in granting the use of these powers."

Now you can read your GEM online at: bridgend-today.co.uk or porthcawl-today.co.uk

'ELECTRIC' ATMOSPHERE AT BRIDGEND INTER-SCHOOL DANCE COMPETITION

THE Grand Pavilion at Porthcawl recently hosted Bridgend's Inter School Dance Competition.

The dance theme was 'Street Dance' and the schools taking part were Bryntirion, Brynteg, Porthcawl, Ogmore, Pencoed, Ynysawdre, Archbishop and Maesteg, with 14 different dance groups competing.

Each dance group battled against the next in their age category, juniors and seniors and the excitement from both ages groups was electric.

Audiences were also treated to special performances from 'Juke Box Juniors' dance groups who were runners up in the smash hit TV programme 'Got To Dance', and Bridgend's own AYPD Dance Crew.

The dance leaders and instructors from secondary schools throughout the borough had coached and choreographed the dances .

The standard of dancing throughout was so high that the four judges had a tough job in deciding on the two winners, with three points separating the junior competition and only one point separating the seniors.

Eventually, Maesteg Comprehensive were announced as junior winners and Bryntirion Comprehensive School senior dance team came out on top. Bridgend's own Kate Morris, one of the nine members of Juke Box Juniors, presented the awards.

Liara Williams choreographer for Juke Box Juniors and one of the judges, said: "The standard of choreography and skills we have witnessed tonight has been amazing.

"It's fantastic to see the older pupils inspiring the younger children to take part and enjoy dance in an event like this".

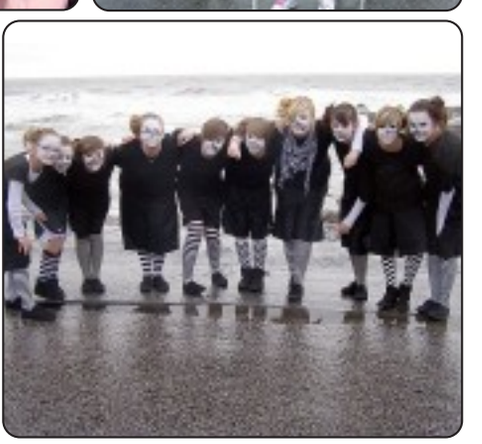
This year's Bridgend Inter School Dance event has been run in association with 'Following the Flame', Bridgend's celebration of the forthcoming 2012 Olympic Games.

The main focus of 'Following the Flame' is to develop links with schools and community groups to put together creative projects and help them to be part of the Olympiad.

The dance programme has followed a school-based health and fitness programme aiming to increase the physical activity levels of children.

The project is a partnership between the sports development unit and the PE departments of local schools that has increased the range of local activities available.

For more information contact Sophie James of the Active Young People Department on 01656 815216.



Outline planning starts for Porthcawl diamond jubilee celebrations...

A WORKING group has been formed to mastermind Porthcawl's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012, *writes JAYNE ISAAC*

Events are being planned to mark the 60th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne in 1952.

The group has been formed under the chairmanship of former town mayor David Richards. It will act under the auspices of Porthcawl Town Council and its events and tourism sub-committee.

A provisional programme of activities has already been drawn up to cover four days of the spring bank holiday.

The celebrations will get under way on Friday, June 1, with a special day for the children of the town. Mr Richards is due to meet local heads shortly, but hopes that a parade of older primary school children will take place from Cosy Corner through town, with some sort of themed pageant being staged. They will make their way to the rugby ground where food and entertainment will be laid on.

Every primary school child in the town, including those who attend schools outside Porthcawl itself, will be presented with a mug by the mayor a few days beforehand.

Mr Richards said that they would be sourcing the mugs and would like them to be made in Wales. They also have to identify funding to cover the costs of this and the rest of the celebration.

On Saturday, June 2, a parade of town organisations will be held, which will also end at the rugby ground, with entertainment provided.

In the evening, a 1950s-themed dance will be held at the Grand Pavilion, with people in costume and dancing to 50s music. On the Sunday (June 3), a civic service will be held in the afternoon at the Grand Pavilion to be organised by Churches Together attended by civic dignitaries and local groups.

On June 4, street parties will be held, with prizes for the best decorated streets. Strolling players will go from street-to-street providing entertainment.

Everyone will have a day off on the Tuesday, which is also a bank holiday.

Mr Richards said that all organisations were invited to get involved and new ideas were welcome.

"Nothing has been formally agreed – this is just a tentative outline of what we would like. The working party includes people who were involved in the Golden Jubilee and have the experience, with some new blood to inject some fresh thinking."

Mr Richards said he would be relying on groups like Rotary, The Lions, the WI and Townswomen's Guild to help with stewarding and refreshments at some events and he will be meeting these organisations shortly.

Local talent will also be needed to provide the entertainment at various events.

Man on drugs charge bailed

PONTYCYMER Neighbourhood Policing team have executed a warrant at an address in Oxford Street and arrested a 46-year-old man, charging him with possession of class B drugs. He has been released on bail.

IN BRIEF

Mike's rail video show

THE Barry Island Railway Society's annual railway video presentation takes place at the Conservative Club, Station Street, Barry at 7.30pm today (Thursday, March 25).

Local video cameraman Mike Wilcock will feature in his 90-minute show: 'Newport Railfair May 1997, visit to Canton and Landore depots. Freightliner 1999-2009. The building of and my cab ride in Tornado. Steam special in the Valleys. Rugby World specials, Class 50s in Wales and much more!'

Admission is free and open to non-members.

For further details telephone 01446 774502.

Beetle drive

A BEETLE drive will be held at Llantonian Hall in aid of the Llantwit Major Twinning Association on April 10 at 7.30pm.

Tickets (which include a buffet) can be obtained on 01446 794729.

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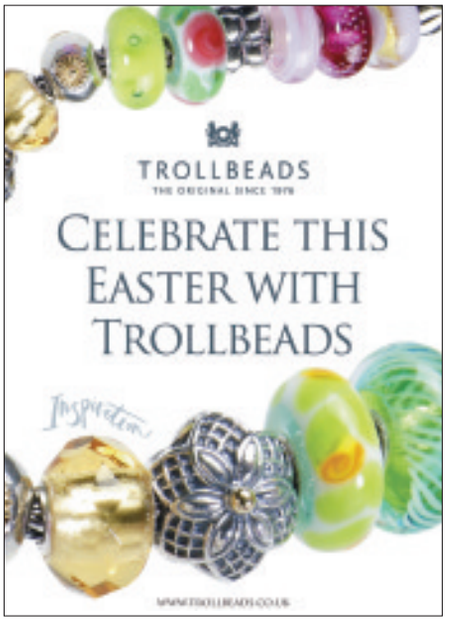

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DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

IT'S NOW TIME TO MAKE THE DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

WITH the digital switchover now well under way, there is little time to waste in order to make sure you are not left with a blank screen.

The first stage of the switchover occured on March 3, and the second, and final, stage takes place on March 31.

On this day, all remaining analogue channels will be switched off for good and the remainder of the digital services will be launched.

This means that all Freeview TVs and boxes will need to be retuned in order for you to continue watching television.

The positives of the switchover are that you need no longer worry about picking up certain channels, nor will you suffer from poor quality pictures.

Instead, the digital switchover will allow those who previously watched television via their aerial better picture quality and access to a number of new channels, previously unavailable.

Should you have any queries about the switchover, or require help, then you can contact 08456 505050 (English language) or 08458 484848 (Welsh language).

Happy viewing!

TV Aerial & Satellite Systems

TV Aerial and Satellite Services are owned and run by Mark Williams, who has been in the industry for more than 25 years and has worked for Sky, Granada, On Digital (the start of digital TV) and also the largest aerial installation company in the country.

Mark prides himself on being able to offer a service that is affordable and reliable.

He values his work and it reflects in the service he offers to his customers, and the company covers the whole of south Wales, west Wales and mid Wales.

After many years' experience in quality home TV installations, and with the use of high quality specialist equipment, Mark can provide a solution to you.

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One Vision – for high quality installations

ONE VISION is a family-run business. Paul Williams, the founder, has more than 20 years' experience in the industry, including 15 years as a supplier of Sky satellite systems.

One Vision is now one of the top independent Sky digital retailers in Wales, and prides itself on the high quality of its products and service. A company spokesman explained: "We provide a fast, efficient service and only use equipment of the highest standards and workmanship.

"In addition, we offer 24-hour, seven-day cover and offer a 12-month warranty on all installations.

"We have supplied digital equipment to more than 125,000 customers, including Sony UK, the Millennium Stadium, Assura Chemist, local authority gyms and swimming pools.

"All of our fitters are experienced and continuously trained in the latest technologies. We are confident that we can provide customers with a solution to all of their technical queries."

All systems are installed to British standard, BSEN60728-11 2005.

The spokesman added: "We specialize in the supply and installation of Sky Digital, Freeview Digital, TV aerial services and digital motorised systems. We offer a full, design, installation and maintenance service for IRS (www.onevisionltd.co.uk/integrated-reception-systems), MATV (www.onevisionltd.co.uk/matv-systems) and SMATV (www.onevisionltd.co.uk/smatv-systems) commercial systems."

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FLATS PLAN FOR PUB OPPOSED

Villagers are geared for battle over Sea Lawns

RESIDENTS of Ogmore-by-Sea are gearing up for another battle to stop the last pub in the village being demolished to make way for a block of flats.

A planning application has been lodged with the Vale Council seeking permission to build 17 flats on the site of the Sea Lawns Hotel by owner John Williams.

A previous application to create 24 flats on the site was refused on appeal after a two-day public inquiry in 2006 which was packed out by villagers.

The inspector turned the appeal down on the grounds that it would result in the loss of an amenity to the community and to tourists visiting the Heritage Coast.

He also said that the scale and design of the proposal was out of keeping with the surroundings.

Villagers are being backed in this fight by St Bride's Major Community Council, which has lodged seven objections to the plan.

These include fears about increased traffic along a narrow single lane track leading to the site; overloading of the sewerage system and the fact that the development is out of scale and character.

They also protest at the loss of the last pub in the village, even though it has been closed since 2005.

Speaking to The GEM, Coun Chris Howells, who chairs the planning committee, said he was backing the fight to retain the Sea Lawns.

"The loss of the last pub in Ogmore is unacceptable to a large majority of the people in the village. There are clear planning policy guidelines, which emphasise the importance of retaining such community facilities in order to sustain communities.

"There is no doubt that the loss of the village pub would be detrimental to village life and to social well-being in Ogmore-by- Sea.

"The Welsh Assembly has policies aimed at creating and retaining sustainable communities and the role of the pub is acknowledged."

Coun Howells stated that there were strong planning guidelines when the last pub in any community was under threat.

"This is the only hotel within the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and it could play a huge role in developing tourism and also catering for visitors who need accommodation or a meal.

"Apart from that, it was also a place where villagers staged functions, got together or just popped in for a pint."

Mr Howells said that Ogmore-by-Sea is one of the largest villages in the Vale but it has no community facilities.

"We have no village hall or community centre so there's nowhere at all people can get together. The Sea Lawns fulfilled that function."

He pointed out that there were plans to build a further 167 houses in Ogmore, which would increase the population and demand for facilities even more.

A public meeting to discuss the plan has already taken place and a campaign group called 'Save the Sea Lawns' has been re-activated to spearhead the fight.

Mr Williams has argued in the past that the business was not viable because of a drop in trade caused by the smoking ban, and also the need for expensive adaptations to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.

The GEM was unable to contact him for a comment.

Residents have until March 31 to make their views on the planning application known to Vale planners.

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The GEM	**43,445**	**42,924**	**F**	**42,693**
Barry & District News	5,819	5,849	P	6,413
Penarth Times	5,834	5,721	P	6,182
South Wales Echo	36,928	41,550	P	44,624
Western Mail	30,133	33,693	P	37,152
Wales on Sunday	32,268	35,955	P	42,763
Glamorgan Gazette	18,149	20,174	P	21,731

GEM BULK DROPS: ***In addition to The GEM's household deliveries (31,073), we distribute over 12,000 extra copies from Penarth to Porthcawl at popular outlets.***

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Because we deliver a complimentary copy of The GEM through 31,073 Vale homes every week – packed with all the content that make a community newspaper great!
Source: www.abc.org.uk

FORD WORKERS SAY 'CROESO' TO £1.5 bn INVESTMENT NEWS

WORKERS at the Bridgend Ford engine plant have welcomed news that a new generation of environmentally-friendly engines are to be built at the plant and other Ford sites in the UK.

Ieuan Wyn Jones, deputy first minister, said that the five-year investment plan, which has been supported by the UK and Welsh governments, would secure jobs and give a boost for the green economy in Wales.

"It shows the confidence that Ford has in its workforce and management at Bridgend whose skills mean they are able to produce a world beating product.

"Wales will be producing a new generation of low carbon engines in a highly competitive global market.

"It means that Wales can and does compete with the best when it comes to manufacturing," he added.

Bridgend County Borough Council has welcomed the news which will see Ford invest £1.5 billion in its new engine and vehicle technologies.

Council leader Mel Nott said that it would secure highly-skilled jobs that were crucial to the local economy.

The investment will be in research and development for the Ford Commercial vehicles like Transit and Connect vans and also for low carbon emission diesel and petrol engines.

The investment includes the development of production facilities for the engines in Bridgend. The government has provided £360m in loan guarantees for the investment. into the area.

'No job losses for councillors'

I WAS interested in the letter from Karl Clarke in The GEM on March 18, in which he made reference to the 4 per cent pay rise the Vale councillors have accepted, and his plea that they should reject it.

If I remember correctly, it was about a year ago that the Vale Council leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, told one councillor who had rejected a similar rise, that he was undervaluing himself, so fat chance of our councillors doing the right thing this time.

The Welsh Audit Office has announced that there will be a £1.5 billion shortfall in revenue available to local authorities and that inevitably there will be job losses and a reduction in services.

There will be no job losses among our local councillors, unless the electorate wakes up and votes them out at the next election.

They have made it blatantly obvious that they are only interested in feathering their own nests and why not?

If their seniors in the House of Commons can do it, why shouldn't they?

Phil Sanders, Barry

Police issue an appeal over nightclub assault

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to an assault which occurred in Streets Nightclub, Porthcawl, between 1am-2am on Sunday, March 21.

The incident resulted in a man and woman both suffering facial injuries.

Police are appealing for anyone with information to contact Detective Constable Justin Lott at Porthcawl CID, on 101, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Handbag theft: youth charged

A 17-year-old youth from Bridgend has been charged with theft of a handbag and remanded in custody following an incident on Friday, March 19, at the Asda store in the town.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(Tel 01656 880418)

MARCH 13 brought birthday greetings for Marg Simmons and Adrian Warner.

IT was pleasing to hear the church bells rung on Mothering Sunday when a team from Coity came to ring a special peal.

SOUTHERNDOWN

WI members welcomed a speaker from the probation service at their monthly meeting at the church hall, St Brides Major, who gave an insight into their work.

OGMORE Retired Residents Association held their AGM at the Watermill, when officers were elected.

A programme of forthcoming events and speakers will be issued shortly.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, April 15. New members welcome.

SPRING is beginning to show with all the crocuses and primroses coming into bloom – the daffodils are a little late this year.

Now is the time to see the spring flowers and shrubs at their best and the National Gardens Scheme for charity will be open at Slade, Southerndown on Easter Sunday, April 4.

THE awaited building of the extension to the church hall will commence next Friday, March 26 and will continue over the Easter holidays.

THE local produce market took place at the church hall on March 20 and was well attended.

It's a good meeting place for a cup of tea or coffee when making your purchases of local meat, preserves, vegetables, cakes and pastries, plants, books and cards. Well worth a visit.

The market is held every third Saturday in the month (10.30am-12.30pm).

PORTHKERRY MEETING

THERE will be a meeting today (March 25) at 5.30pm in Porthkerry Road Methodist Church to discuss plans to convert the building into an arts and Welsh-language centre in Barry.

The meeting will last about an hour, and all are welcome to attend and see the plans for a new community resource.

Contact Dorothy on 01446 744914 for more information.

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To get your channels back, you'll need to re-tune your Freeview TV or box.* You should be able to do this by 6am, but some of you will need to wait until late afternoon.
How do I re-tune?
Switch on your Freeview TV or box.
Press 'menu' on the remote control.
Select the 'set up' or 'installation' option.
Select the 'first time installation' option (sometimes called 'factory reset', 'full re-tune' or 'default settings').
Press 'OK' if your equipment asks if you want to delete all your channels. Don't worry, this is normal.
If you are prompted for a code, try 0000 or 1234.
Channels will be automatically installed. This may take a few minutes and your equipment may shut down and restart.
After re-tuning, you may have to reset your 'favourites' list. If you re-tune a digital TV recorder, you should re-set future recordings.
Keep this. It might be useful
These instructions are a guide only. For detailed re-tuning instructions of popular makes and models visit digitaluk.co.uk/retuning. Satellite and cable TV viewers will not be affected.
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Barry College - Celebrating half a century at the heart of the Vale.

Barry College is celebrating 50 years of its life and work at the heart of the community in the Vale. Each month in the Gem, Barry College will be looking back over the last 50 years – with memories and photographs from past students, staff and local residents. To look at photographs of College life from the last 50 years, log on to our Facebook page 'I ❤ BARRY'. To contribute memories, photographs or register as a past student or staff member, contact us by email: 50years@barry.ac.uk or tel: 01446 725015

The Glamorgan Suite restaurant at Barry College recently hosted a dinner to commemorate 50 years of engineering courses being offered at the College. Organised by Engineering Lecturer and long serving member of staff Phil Rees, forty members of lecturing staff, heads of department and technicians – past and present – attended to celebrate the last 50 years.

Current Head of Engineering, Richard Thomas, spoke on the evening and commented on the friendships and memories that have been formed and shared over this time. He said, "We have shared knowledge, interests, funny stories and jokes, happiness and sadness, holiday destinations and caravans! When added together, we have almost 700 years of service to the College, being committed to educating and training thousands of students over the last fifty years."

One attendee on the evening was Stuart Oakley, who left the College in 2009 after 36 years of working as a Technician and then Senior Technician within the Engineering department. Even before he started working at the College in 1973, Stuart has memories of College in its early days as he was one of the first students – starting at the age of 14 back in 1960, the College's first academic year. This makes his involvement with Barry College stretch over a 49 year time span. Stuart was a full-time Engineering student when he first started, before progressing to an apprenticeship.

During his career, Stuart recalls changes taking place around the College – extensions to buildings as student and staff numbers increased, the introduction of new courses and numerous room changes. During his working life, Stuart has seen the development of the Engineering department, including the opening of the Electrical and Plumbing sections, as well as whole new areas of innovative engineering over the years, such as Computer Aided Design. Stuart was involved in these and many other projects over the years, including the Barry College Amateur Radio Society, the Barry College Silver Jubilee celebrations and different sporting and social events.

Past and present staff from the Engineering department attended the '50 Years of Engineering' dinner

The Electronic Engineering department in 1984

One of the first groups of Engineering Apprentices, 1962. Pictured in top row are well known lecturers, Lionel Dimond, Ken Oaten and Dave Yandle.

Do you have a special memory or story about Barry College?
Do you have any photographs of Barry College taken over the years?

Whether a past student, member of staff, friend of the College or local resident – we all share in the College's heritage.

All those who contribute photographs or written memories will receive a thank you letter and commemorative gift.

Barry College will assume the consent of all those who appear in any photographs and written statements contributed relating to the College and its 50th celebrations, for use on the Barry College website, marketing materials and related media coverage. By contributing images/statements, you are agreeing to grant Barry College a royalty free licence to publish, edit and use such materials for the purposes stated above.

BRIDGEND LIFE COACH SCOOPS FIRST SPIRIT OF GIVING PRIZE

Inspiring Alison wins Vale businesswomen's award

BRIDGEND life coach and Vale Women's Business Network member, Allyson Gale has been named as the winner of the VWBN's first-ever Spirit of Giving award, at a ceremony in the Senedd hosted by the Minister for Business and Budget, Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale.

The VWBN launched its search in 2009 for the female entrepreneur, manager or businesswoman who had made the most significant contribution to her business and community.

The awards were launched in memory of Yvonne McDermott, a former VWBN member, who sadly died from breast cancer in 2008.

Allyson Gale of Brackla, originally trained as a biomedical scientist and worked for 26 years in NHS management.

In 1998, health problems, related to a pituitary tumour, caused her to retire very early but she is now self-employed as a life coach. She joined the VWBN in 2003.

For several years, Allyson has also worked as a volunteer, running a local support group for the Pituitary Foundation, a national charity for people with disorders of the pituitary gland.

In this role, she has been able to use her own experiences, together with her coaching skills, to help other patients and carers.

She has also run coaching-based workshops for the charity, at national level, and now writes a coaching column for their national magazine, Pituitary Life.

Allyson enjoys line-dancing and singing with a Ladies Barbershop Chorus (of which she is currently chair) and an *acappella* quartet.

"I'm humbled and honoured to win this award in memory of Yvonne, who I knew very well," said Allyson.

"Everyone knows it's a challenge to balance your professional life with something that you feel passionate about in your personal life.

"I believe wholeheartedly in volunteering because the qualities you bring to one aspect of your life are just as valid in the other,."

Jane Hutt AM for the Vale, is also patron of the VWBN and presented Allyson with her award.

She commented: "I was proud to help launch the Spirit of Giving Awards to recognise the distinctive contribution of women involved in the Vale Women's Business Network in their own businesses and in the community.

"This year, I would like to offer my congratulations to Allyson Gale whose generosity and tireless commitment to helping others is an inspiration to all of us."

Chris Lee, designer and property manager who helped to judge the entries, said:

"Just like Yvonne, whose memory the award honours, Allyson too is an inspirational woman who has shown generosity and giving in both her professional and personal life.

"The VWBN was founded on the principles of giving support to others and Allyson has shown to have this quality in abundance."

Llantwit Major businesswoman, Julie Robinson was also named as runner-up.

Julie, who was described by the judges as "inspiring", has been a committed fundraiser for Bridgend Samaritans for at least the last 10 years.

With a young family, she has also set up two businesses, one successfully establishing the first holiday property in Llantwit Major.

The award ceremony was part of an event which also played host to award-winning photographer and VWBN member, Anna Proctor's latest exhibition called 'Coast'.

Nervous Bella needs someone she can trust

The GEM is in partnership with the Dogs Trust to find good homes for animals in their care at the Bridgend rehoming centre. This week:Bella is a 2-year-old Boxer Cross and is a very nervous and under socialised dog. She is best suited being rehomed to live with another dog as she is more confident and settled around other dogs, a spokeswoman for the centre reports.

ABOVE: Bella

"She will need an experienced owner willing to continue her socialising and help build up her confidence. She can live with children over 14 years old and over.

"Anyone interested in adopting her will need to visit the centre a few times to allow her time to get to know and trust them."

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100 per cent record as local children ride the Stagecoach to success!

ABOVE: The Stagecoach pupils show off their certificates.

THE Stagecoach Theatre School is celebrating after 42 children, aged between seven and 17, recently took their LAMDA acting or speaking exams.

They have every reason to celebrate as they achieved a 100 per cent pass rate with the majority gaining distinction!

Stagecoach principal Helene Reynolds explained: "LAMDA was founded in 1861 and stands for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. LAMDA has a global reputation for excellence, and the higher level exams can be used to obtain UCAS points for university entry.

"At Stagecoach, LAMDA examinations are offered to students who want to enter exams in either acting or speaking of verse and prose. For a term they receive extra tuition in preparation, alongside their regular drama, dance and singing sessions."

Helene and husband Rob, who together run five Stagecoach schools in Bridgend and The Vale, are extremely proud of their students' success.

"We have always achieved a 100 per cent pass rate, a testament to the hard work and enjoyment of the children who undertake these exams."

All 42 children received a certificate and examiners' written report in recognition of passing the exam. The youngest were seven-year-olds Isabella Carter, Morwenna Brown and Esme Bourne, all achieving a well-deserved distinction for the preliminary grade.

Elizabeth Parker (17) and Andrew McQueen (15) took the prestigious acting solo grade 7 silver medal. They were both awarded their silver medal with distinction.

Youth theatre's Aneurin wins top Olivier award

"YOU'VE done the borough proud!" That was the message from Borough Mayor Coun Jefferson Tildesley and Council Leader Coun Mel Nott to young local actor, Aneurin Barnard, after he won a best actor gong in the prestigious Laurence Olivier awards.

The mayor and the leader have sent a letter of congratulation to Aneurin (23) of Lewistown. The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama graduate picked up the award for 'best actor in a musical or entertainment category' for his role in the West End cult show Spring Awakening.

Fellow actor Iwan Rheon, 24, from Cardiff, who he stars alongside, picked up 'the best supporting performance in a musical award', while Spring Awakening, itself won 'best new musical' for its run at the Novello Theatre.

In their letter, Coun Nott and Mayor Tildesley write: "May we, on behalf of the county borough of Bridgend, offer our warmest and most sincere congratulations.

"You must be delighted that the hard work you have put in over these past years has culminated in such a spectacular way and has made such an impact in a very competitive arena.

"It is a very proud moment for Bridgend county borough to see one of our young people achieve success in this manner and we offer our heartfelt congratulations to you personally and to the rest of the cast and production team of Spring Awakening."

Aneurin, who was a member of the Bridgend Youth Theatre, will next appear in the forthcoming medieval action film *Ironclad,* with a host of leading actors, including James Purefoy, Derek Jacobi and Brian Cox.

ABOVE: Aneurin Barnard.

Top tipping from the Vale of Glamorgan pub!

THE Vale of Glamorgan public house in Cowbridge won The GEM's 'guess the winner of the Six Nations competition'.

On Saturday evening, France beat England 12 – 10 in Paris in a tense match to secure the Grand Slam.

Most of the local businesses had plumped for Ireland to take the title – but not so the demon tipster Alun John, who correctly went for France.

So if you want to know the winner of next year's Six Nations, you could do a lot worse than pop into the Vale of Glamorgan for some expert advice!

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Landlubbers donate to the Lifeboat!

LEFT: John Abraham is presented with the bumper cheque

JOHN ABRAHAM, chairman of Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat station, has been presented with a £1,183 donation by the 'Young at Heart' group, in Trethomas, Caerphilly.

The group had raised a total of over £2,300, which was equally split between the RNLI Porthcawl and Help the Heroes.

John said: "It was amazing the total amount raised by this relatively small group who met weekly and generated money from selling home made cakes and coffee, as well as enjoying a game of bingo.

"As a charity, the RNLI relies totally on donations from groups like this and it is very reassuring to know that people who do not live near the sea keep us in mind and help so much to keep our crews trained and equipped."

Spokesperson for Porthcawl Lifeboat Station, Ian Stroud, added: "The crew are very aware of the costs involved each time they have a call-out.

"Last year proved to be our busiest for many years, a total of 55 call-outs, so donations of this type are greatly appreciated."

Notable double for Pencoed under-9s team

PENCOED under-9s welcomed local rivals Bridgend Sports to the Verlands last Sunday on what turned out to be great conditions for rugby.

Earlier in the season, this strong Pencoed team, some say the best in the district, had comfortably beaten Bridgend at their home game at Newbridge Fields and something similar was expected.

However, Sports were dominant in the forward play, winning ball at the breakdown time after time. Pencoed's defence had to be on top form and, thankfully it was, otherwise the visitors would have opened the scoring.

Dogged play saw Jonathon Carr run in for the first followed by two more from Sam Costelow.

Oliver Lewis and Mikey Bosley started hitting the rucks with greater purpose and with Rhys Spurgeon, Thomas and Rhys Bending driving in the mauls, Pencoed began to get on top.

The second half, however, saw Bridgend Sports up their game again and deservedly ran in a try.

As with so many other good teams, Pencoed fought to the end and with Ben Humphries now showing the way in excellent rucking technique and Tyrone Harding and Jack Rowlands dangerous at the breakdown, Pencoed held out for what turned out to be a great win.

Result: Pencoed 3 Bridgend Sports 1.

A second game was played and the intensity continued from the Sports, who have developed into a very formidable side.

With the speed of Pencoed together with great passing, which was the only difference in the sides, three tries were quickly ran in from Sam Costelow, Thomas Bending and Tyrone Harding.

The script would normally read more of the same, but The Sports bettered their performance in the first game running in two tries and again dominating the forward play.

At the whistle, Jonathon Carr ran in Pencoed's fourth to round off the tightest games Pencoed have had this season.

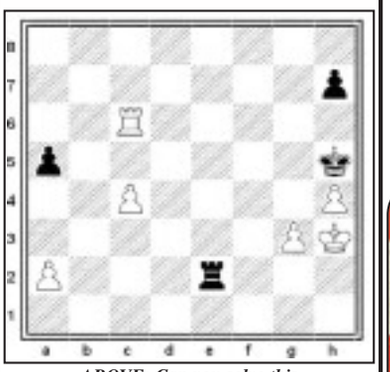
Mention must go to Owain John who was sidelined several times through injury but finished as a well deserved man of the match.

Result: Pencoed 4 Bridgend Sports 2.

Squad: Jack Rowlands, Tyrone Harding, Jonathon Carr, Owain Johns, Sam Costelow, Ben Humphries, Mikey Bosley, Oliver Lewis, Thomas Bending, Rhys Bending, Rhys Spurgeon. **MB**

BRIDGEND CHESS CLUB NEWS

Time Lords exterminate the Pawns



ABOVE: Can you solve this week's chess puzzle?

THE Bridgend Time Lords have maintained their drive for the Division 1 title in the East Glamorgan Chess League, with a 5-0 whitewash over the Cardiff Pawns.

The shock result will surely add more spice to the forthcoming top of the table clash, with the Time Lords and the Cardiff Castles due to meet in the next round of fixtures, at the Bridgend Tennis Club on April 15.

In the Pawns match, IM's Roland Berzinsh and Odion Aikhoje continued their devastating form, beating John Trevelyan and Jerry Giachos, respectively.

David Robinson beat Charles Summers and Femi Adebajo and Paul Tew completed the thumping, beating Guy Wagner and Mike Edwards in emphatic fashion.

WCU Knock-Out

With Bridgend turning out en-mass at Final's Day last year, the chess club is looking once more for a good run in the Welsh Chess Union Knock-Out competitions.

It would be some achievement to repeat the success of last year, with Bridgend Chess Club fielding a team in each of the finals that day.

From the four teams, two obtained the silverware. The Bridgend Time Lords victorious in the Open Plate, while the Bridgend Jedi were unopposed in their success in the U1500 Cup.

The Bridgend Time Lords entertained White Knights at the tennis club, in the first round of the Open Cup. The Llanelli team, who play their chess in the West Wales Chess League, were going to prove formidable opposition, and to earn a place in the next round the team would need to be in top form.

Femi Adebajo, who has hit a purple patch of late, again looked out of sorts losing to Alan Young. Commander David Robinson then drew a hard fought clash with Jason Garcia.

The tables turned on the visitors when IM Odion Aikhoje beat Mark Thomas and Paul Tew beat Gerry Heap to clinch the tie 2.5-1.5.

In the U1500 Cup, Bridgend Wraith had a tricky tie away to Caerphilly. On the top board Andrew Trickey lost to Mike Joslin, putting the Wraith on the backfoot.

Nathan Trickey gained parity with a win over Kevin O'Rourke, and the teams could still not be separated after Ken Wardle drew with Paul Wallace.

So it was down to the bottom board, where Dom Cavalli played Clive Crowley. The Wraith needed the win to progress and Dom happily obliged. Bridgend Wraith 2.5 Caerphilly 1.5.

WEEKLY PUZZLE

Solve the chess puzzle and submit your entry to us. Each week there is a free month's membership to Bridgend Chess Club up for grabs. In addition, each entry is placed into our monthly prize draw.

White to play

Mate in 1 moves
Puzzle: BCC-018

Answer: Puzzle BCC-015
1. Nc5+ Nxc5 2. Qe5++

No Winner
Email entries to : andrew@bridgendchess-club.org.uk
ANDREW TRICKEY

Porthcawl beach clean-up

BEACH clean-ups are taking place this Saturday (March 27) organised by Porthcawl Lions at Rest Bay through to Sker.

Everyone should meet at The Rest Hotel, ready for a 10am start. All are welcome.

SPRING INTO EASTER at

High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street

FOOD FOR THOUGHT NOMINATED FOR AWARD

ABOVE: Nathan Keeble and Anna Hardwick of High Street's Food for Thought are celebrating being nominated as 'Deli of the Year'.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT has been nominated by Olive's Et Al for 'Deli of the Year' – a boost for the popular High Street shop.

For loyal customers who vote for Food for Thought, there's a chance of winning a holiday in Spain.

Nathan Keeble said: "If people would like to vote for us they can go on-line to *delioftheyear.co.uk* or call in to us for a voting slip."

The staff have one final message: "Don't forget to order your hot cross buns this Easter!"

Forks Café is inspired by 'Twilight'!

FORKS CAFE opened in High Street, next to the former HyperValue, only five weeks ago and is proving to be a popular venue for shoppers.

Alexis Cunningham, the owner of Forks, is an avid Twilight fan, hence the name of the shop, named after the town where the movie *Twilight* is set.

Alexis commented: "The breakfast called 'Breaking Dawn' is a great favourite and the service providing a take out or dine in service is a definite success.

Shopowners and staff in the street can phone in their lunch orders in advance."

Alexis said their coffee is popular, too. They have gone for a top name, SegaFredo, a good quality Italian brand.

The music played in Forks gives the café a lovely atmosphere with many hits from the 50s and 60s playing gently in the background.

Call into Forks for that important break while you browse the many quality shops of High Street.

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SPRING INTO EASTER at
High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street

HIGH STREET TRADERS ARE PREPARING FOR THE ANNUAL EASTER BONNET PARADE

HIGH STREET Easter Bonnet Parade will be held on Saturday, April 3 at 11am – followed by a rather special party!

The chairman of High Street traders, Mr Anthony Hopkins, told The GEM: "First we'll have the bonnet parade, then there's going to be a Mad Hatter's tea party in Cubana's cafe bar.

"Last year, we had more than 80 entries and that set us a target to beat! So come on mums, dads, aunties and uncles, brush up on your hat-making skills and let's see if we can make this year's Easter Bonnet Parade the best ever!

"Girls and boys have the option of Easter bonnets or to dress up as Mad Hatters.

"Entry details can be found in shop windows throughout High Street.

"Please be outside the old Hype Value site at 10.45am for judging – there are lots of prizes to be won."

LEFT: Winners of the High Street Traders children's competitions.

3rd Courtney Alford, St Baruc
FIND THE LEEK
1st Lauren Merchant, Bryn Hafren
2nd Keri Latham, High Street
3rd Thomas and Ryan, Gladstone.
COLOURING COMPETITION
1st Georgia Dyball, Palmerston
2nd Harper Chamberlain, Romilly
3rd Bradley James, Palmerston

COLOURING COMPETITION:

St David's Day may have passed, but last week saw a very Welsh day in Barry's High Street.

Lucky winners of High Street's colouring, word search and window competitions were presented with a selection of prizes, ranging from official Welsh rugby shirts to signed team photos and Welsh rugby key rings.

Mr Hopkins said: "We were amazed at the number of high quality entries to our colouring competition and, as always, it was very hard to choose the winners!

"We are hoping to display all of the entries in shop windows throughout High Street, Island Road and Market Street for everyone to see.

"Some are already on display on the side window of the former Jaks hair salon next to Cubana's."

The winners of the St David's Day competitions were:

WORD SEARCH:
1st Lucas Edwards, Romilly
2nd Mia Hughes

You can now read all about the various events in High Street and the surrounding areas in The GEM's online edition: ***www.barry-today.co.uk***

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Bridgend Air Cadets give Wings Appeal a lift

BRIDGEND Air Cadets have been assisting in fundraising for the RAF Association Wings Appeal, to help support disabled former servicemen and their families.

Nationally, the fund raises £2m annually and Bridgend Squadron raised the most money in the Bridgend area from the Air Cadets efforts.

A cadet from each local cadet squadron who had raised the largest individual amount for the charity was honoured, and Cadet Sara Kirk of Bridgend received a plaque decorated with aircraft of the Royal Air Force past and present, for raising over £70 selling Appeal 'Wings'.

At the recent presentation at the RAFA club, Sara received the Ken Maund Commemorative Cup on behalf of the Bridgend squadron and the thanks of the president of the Porthcawl RAFA club.

Sara said: "It's good to raise money to help injured airmen and their families."

Flight Lieutenant Dave Biddles, officer commanding 1092 Squadron said: "I'm very proud that a Bridgend Cadet has again received this award for outstanding efforts in the Wings Appeal collection and I hope the public will support this worthy appeal during Battle of Britain week next September."

Cadet Sara Kirk with the Ken Maund Commemorative Cup.

Each Cadet undertakes a minimum of 25 hours of community service annually and each year, help to raise money for the Wings Appeal and the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, alongside the many Corps activities.

From its headquarters at Joslin Terrace, Coity, the Squadron accepts membership for both boys and girls aged 13-16 years for a broad-based training and leisure programme of events, including flying and gliding opportunities, kayaking, digital photography, shooting, sports, community service and participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Parents can bring their 'recruit' along any Tuesday or Friday evening at 7.30pm and we are always on the lookout for additional volunteer staff, as instructors or as fundraisers on our Welfare Committee.

KEVIN McMULLIN
(Civilian Instructor 1092 Sqn Air Cadets)

Not kids... just the WI reciting nursery rhymes!

NEWS FROM LALESTON WI

THE meeting on March 4 was presided over by vice-president Gwyneth Jenkins, and had anyone been passing the gardening club that evening they might have thought there was a class of primary school children therein.

They would have been mistaken; it was WI members reciting approximately 25 nursery rhymes well remembered from childhood.

The reason for so doing was because the guest speaker, Joyce James, was giving a talk on the history and meanings of the rhymes. As usual with Mrs James, it was most entertaining and fascinating.

Since the meeting, the monthly luncheon club has met and on that occasion the Hunters Lodge was the venue.

Also, a group of 20 members attended the Link meeting at Cefn Cribbwr. The speaker was Terry Walton, a gardener with an allotment in the Rhondda and he is also the gardener on the Jeremy Vine radio show.

Then the meeting was entertained by a tenor, with pianist, who invited the audience to join in the songs.

The next meeting of Laleston WI will be on April 1 – 'Those were the Days part 2' with Steven Jarvis.

Ed Evans charity walk at Marcross

THE Ed Evans Foundation's sponsored annual walk will take place on Easter Monday, April 5 starting from Nash Point car park at Marcross.

The foundation was set up following the death of local boy Ed Evans from a brain tumour, to raise money for Cancer Research UK and for Brain Tumour UK.

There are two walks, one of six miles suitable for families, and another of 12 miles for more serious walkers.

Details and sponsor forms are available on website www.edevans-foundation.co.uk or tel 01656 890217.

Number 10 hears all about the work of the Sandville Centre

The Sandville group and the Bridgend MP are flanked by the Prime Minister and his wife at 10 Downing Street.

THE caring work of the Sandville Centre was relayed to 10 Downing Street when Gwyneth Poacher, Peggy Parish and Ruth Foster were invited to meet Prime Minister Gordon Brown and his wife, Sarah by MP Madeleine Moon.

The PM and his wife learned about the ways in which the Sandville Centre cares for patients from across the world who are having radiotherapy and chemotherapy at the Velindre Hospital in Cardiff, which the centre also runs a transport service to and from.

The ladies talked about how the centre offers a range of complementary therapies and activities, which include reflexology, yoga, massage, therapy in individual or group settings, aromatherapy and Reiki.

"It is treatment like this, as well as the benefits advice and legal advice that the centre gives on a monthly basis, which helps patients and their carers to manage their illnesses and their treatment," the Bridgend Mp explained. "The centre is only able to do this amazing work because of the inspirational work of Gwyneth, Peggy and Ruth and their many volunteers.

"Their work is an inspiration to us all, and I was especially proud to take the ladies on their tour of Downing Street," she commented.

"The three ladies wandered though Downing Street, checked out the Cabinet room and posed behind the lecterns used for Downing Street press conferences.

"It was a fantastic evening for three fantastic ladies."

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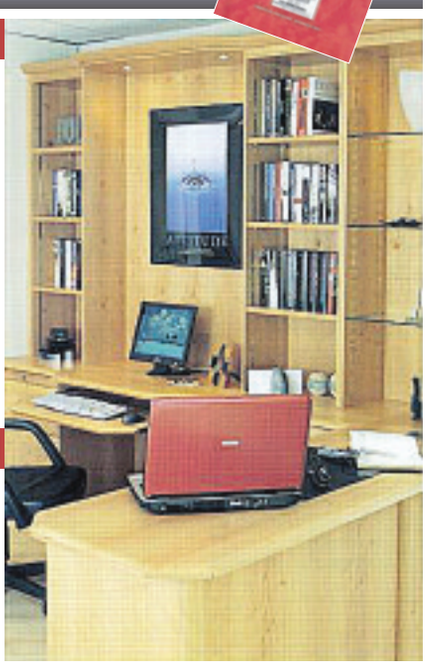

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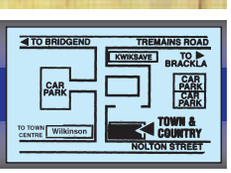

Stanwell pupils express their views on the community

Letters to the editor

• These three letters were penned by students at Stanwell School, Penarth, who clearly have strong views on problems in the community!

Shocked by an aggressive taxi driver

I WAS wondering if any of your readers have noticed how taxi drivers seem to think that they're more important than any other driver and that they have an excuse for not following the Highway Code.

On Saturday evening, I was coming home from a day out in Cardiff and a taxi pulled out of a parking space and we got stuck behind it, while it was waiting to pick up some people.

He stopped there for about five minutes and when he finally started driving again, he accelerated past a pelican crossing, where some young children were crossing with their parents.

I was very shocked by the aggression in his driving and the fact that he had no care for anyone else who was driving around him.

My other incident with a taxi driver was when we were driving along Penarth Road and the driver was getting impatient with other drivers in front, including myself, who were following the speed limits.

He finally got so impatient that he overtook three cars.

When he went past me, I saw that he was on his mobile phone.

I found this a disgrace. How can a licensed driver who has passengers in the back of his car, decide to go on his mobile phone while overtaking three cars?

James L, Penarth

Disgust over the potholes

I AM writing to express my disgust at the lack of maintenance of the Vale's roads.

The potholes are terrible, and especially bad around the town centre. If a member of the public goes out on their bike and hits one of these potholes, there could be a serious accident. This could be made even worse if a car was travelling towards the cyclist and then the bike hit a pothole', the cyclist could be seriously injured.

I hope this matter receives the utmost urgent attention of the Vale Council, due to the seriousness and potential to cause harm to the public and road users in the Vale.

Steven Warrington, Penarth

The worst train service of all!

DO any of your readers catch the Vale trains? I do. I catch the train from Eastbrook to Cogan and vice versa.

I was on my way to Eastbrook and I checked the service board and my train was expected in two minutes, lucky! I was standing with friends so I wasn't by myself. Five minutes had gone and the train still had not appeared. Ten minutes later, the train still wasn't there. It really annoyed me that I had to wait 10 minutes for my train to arrive when it said it was due in two minutes.

If it wasn't expected on time, why lie and not give us the given time? To improve the problem, the time board should give the right time and tell you if the train is delayed.

It is a fact that Britain has the worst train service and countries like India have a better train provision.

Saffron Collins-Ton, Dinas Powys

Tube train driver recalls Moorgate

IT was very interesting to read the Barry's Men's Forum column in The GEM on March 11.

I was a tube train driver at the time of the Moorgate tube train disaster and I and many of my colleagues felt that relevant information was withheld from the Government inquiry and the coroner's inquest.

I intend to address this matter later this year with the publication of *Understanding Moorgate*, in which I dispel the recorded fact that the train that crashed was the one that had been prepared, brought into service and worked all morning by the driver who was found dead in the wreckage of his crushed driving cab.

Scrutiny of the evidence strongly suggests that the dead driver and his guard had changed trains with another crew at Old Street station the trip before the crash – and that the dead driver had only driven this change-over train once to Moorgate, whereupon it crashed.

Anthony Bright,

Red Kite was spotted, twice

WITH reference to the letter from Martin Tomlinson about the Red Kite seen on March 13, we also saw a Red Kite flying south-west from the direction of Cowbridge at 2pm-2.30pm on that day.

We saw one flying over Llanmaes, in the same direction, a few weeks previously.

Ann Smith, Llanmaes

I saw it, too?

DID I see the same Red Kite flying over the main road in Ystradowen on Friday morning?

Mrs VP Robins, Trerhyngyll

WE welcome your views and news. Please email the Editorial Department at: *ggem@internet-today.co.uk*

Warning, no fishing without a licence!

IT is that time of year again where new environmental course river rod licenses are required to be renewed or purchased ready for April 1.

Last year, some 4,100 people were caught and fined up to £2,500 each for simply defying the law and failing to purchase a rod license.

This year, an adult licence costs £26; junior under -16 £8, minor under-12 is free, but they have to be accompanied by someone over-16 with a rod licence.

Time after time, anglers contact the Environmental Agency to report people fishing on privately owned ponds and lakes or rivers as they know these people do not have a licence and are trepassing.

Environmental officers have the power of arrest; will confiscate their rods and other equipment and can also take them to court.

An environmental rod licence is not a pass that entitles people to fish private lakes or ponds or rivers, they have to become members and pay the fees as do we.

So the advice I would give to all is: Get a rod licence, join a club, or go to day ticket waters (there are plenty around the Vale).

Most tackle shops have application forms to join fishing clubs or places where you can fish for the day at a cost but you still need a rod licence.

R Phillips, Barry

The Red Kite was magnificent

IN response to Martin Tomlinson's letter in The GEM on March 18 – yes, we did see a Red Kite.

It was mid-morning on Monday, March 5, My partner and I were driving from Cowbridge, going in the direction of Pontyclun. We had just gone through Aberthin and as we came round the bend, he was standing in the road, feeding on a dead magpie.

I had to slow almost to a halt as he obviously didn't want to leave his lunch.

We have never been as close to a Red Kite. He surveyed us with some annoyance and lazily lifted himself into the air – a truly magnificent sight.

Let's hope he wasn't just passing through.

Annie Grujic, St Hilary

LLANTWIT MAJOR'S SPRING UPDATE . . .

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

WIN ONE OF FOUR £25 SHOPPING VOUCHERS!

The Glamorgan GEM is offering four lucky readers the chance to win a £25 shopping voucher – to spend at any of the businesses advertising in this feature.

All you have to do to enter this competition is answer this question:

What historical theme does Llantwit Major adopt for its biennial summer fair?

(A) Elizabethan (B) Victorian

(C) Edwardian.

Send your name, address and telephone number to us, on a postcard marked 'Llantwit Competition', no later than Friday, April 9.

No correspondence will be entered into and judge's decision is final. Good luck!

Spring sunshine sees Llantwit at its very best

SPRING has finally sprung after a long and distinctly hard winter.

The new lambs in the fields and a few brave daffodils starting to blossom herald the beginnings of this annual rebirth.

Like our pagan forebears, we know that the sun has passed its equinox and is now returning to brighten up our lives and bring us some warmth.

In Llantwit Major, the spring sunshine shows the historic town at its best, with its many ancient stone buildings throwing off the greyness of winter and glowing in the heat of the sun.

The town has an enviable heritage with many fine old buildings including the church and the remains of St Illtud's monastery and college.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

Young's Butchers

ALAN YOUNG, a Llantwit man, learned his trade originally under the guidance of David Griffiths.

Alan began at the age of 12 and is now 69 years of age. The business – situated in the old part of Llantwit, beside St Illtud's Church – is a well established butchers, which has stood the test of time. While other businesses have come and gone, Young's Butchers is still going strong.

Alan took on a new manager two years ago – Marc Owen, who now feels he is ready to move the business forward, as Alan steps back to become a silent owner.

Mind you, Alan would probably laugh if it was said –"he's not usually silent – this will be a first!"

Marc is a very capable young man, who recently became a proud dad to Chloie.

Marc intends to make a number of changes. First being to increase the opening hours. From March 28, the butchers will be open all day, every day except Sunday and Monday.

Specialising in Welsh Black Beef, Welsh Lamb, Woodland Pork, local fresh free range poultry, home-made faggots and traditional meaty sausages.

Marc is keen to make an impression managing the butchers Tuesday to Friday, while Alan will keep his hand in each Saturday.

FILCO Supermarkets

Filco Supermarkets, 19 Boverton Road, Llantwit Major CF61 1XZ

Filco - local supermarkets

FILCO SUPERMARKETS, founded in 1946 in Wine Street, Llantwit Major, has proudly served the local community for more than 64 years.

We aim to provide the best products at great value, at the highest convenience for our customers.

Filco is located right in the heart of the town, opposite the train station, and is serviced by our free shopper car park.

From our award-winning butchery, through to our great selections of fresh produce, we are sure to cater for all tastes and preferences.

Open 8am-8pm Monday-Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sundays. Telephone:01446 796188.

Clothes Care Corner - great value cleaning

BE sure to take advantage of the top quality dry cleaning service offered at Clothes Care Corner. Check out their website: *www.clothescarecorner.co.uk* and see for yourself the excellent value for money services on offer, including laundry.

A wealth of experience and truly professional care is taken with the customers' requirements which means you can be confident of a tip-top result.

A helpful and friendly service continues to draw customers from far and wide.

A warm welcome to customers old and new, at 6 The Precinct, Llantwit Major, CF61 1XA; telephone 01446 796623.

COACH TRIP TICKETS AVAILABLE

Depart Llantwit Major 8am Saturday, 8th May, coffee and cake stop at the George Hotel, Brecon, on to Devil's Bridge for the Vale of Rheidol Steam Railway *(1 hour rail journey)*. Lunch at the Aberystwyth Park Lodge Hotel with time for sightseeing after lunch. Afternoon tea and Welsh cakes at Rhosmaen. Arrive back in Llantwit Major at 8.00pm.

£40 per head *(all inclusive)*

Anyone interested call Eileen on

01446 794729 or **07970 016724**

Bonny Tiler

BONNY TILER is a family-run business based in Llantwit Major and covering the Vale and surrounding areas.

Our business specialises in full bathroom and wet room installations, wall and floor tiling and under floor heating.

Our wet rooms are an elegant and desirable solution for virtually any bathroom with a luxurious contemporary feel and efficient use of space.

Choose from ceramic, natural stone, porcelain or mosaics. We have a range of brochures and can collect and deliver if necessary.

Free quotations, design and advice.

Supply and fit or fit only.

References provided, quality assured.

Tel. 01446 796582 or 07854 168459.

New Craft & Gift Venture

for Llantwit Major

Starting on 10th April

there will be a

Monthly Craft and Gift Fair

held in the Llantonian Hall

The organisers say that they have been thinking for a while that Llantwit should host a regular event for crafters, makers and alternative retailers.

If Cowbridge can do it, so can we! There will be a variety of stalls and some will change from month to month. Already. there are card and paper crafters, jewellery makers and sellers, candlers and knitters, wood turners and photographers represented, as well as unusual felt bunting and homemade produce. There will be fair trade and home made light refreshments available. It is certainly worth a visit, if only for a browse, a coffee or tea and some lovely cake, to support this opportunity for showcasing local creativity.

Enquiries, contact Peta Shields

T: 01656 890353 E: peta@peartreecott.co.uk

Sunkissed

LOOK good and feel good at Sunkissed this summer.

Clean Start is the new range of skin care for teenagers from Dermalogica. These products have been specifically designed for the 12 to 19 year age group, so we can now educate our children on the benefits of a good skin regime.

As ever at Sunkissed we have exciting monthly offers of various products and treatments, so whether it's a Spray Tan, Pedicure or Acrylic Nails, we can help you get ready to enjoy the long summer ahead!

Lorianne has recently joined our team and looks forward to welcoming you.

Get ready for some me time... Sunkissed

Lose yourself in our relaxing and luxurious treatments

East St., Llantwit Major CF61 1XY

Tel: 01446 796883

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www.sunkissedllantwit@hotmail.co.uk

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- Sign Service
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Unit 6 The Precint, LLANTWIT MAJOR

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Bathrooms

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Professional, reliable & friendly service.

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PC of Mind

PCofMIND offers a wide range of computer services for domestic and business clients. For new computers, laptops, repairs, upgrades, networking, internet problems, come and see us. We can help.

We always strive to provide the best possible customer service, with good, understandable advice. Home or office visits are available, usually within a day of your call.

If you buy a new PC or laptop, data transfer, delivery and set up in your home or office is included in the price.

So whatever you need for your computer, try PCofMind, Llantwit Major 01446 796171; Pencoed 01656 860773.

LLANTWIT MAJOR'S SPRING UPDATE . . .

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Local businesses get ready for their visitors over Easter period

The Beach Cafe

Serves Breakfast 9 -11.45
Hot food served all day
Traditional Sunday Lunches
Take-away food
Confectionary - Ice Creams
Souvenirs - Beach Toys

Bookings taken for Functions and Parties

Tel. 01446 792665

The Beach (Colhugh Street)
Llantwit Major,
South Glam. CF61 1RF

Open 364 DAYS Except Christmas Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

This heritage may be promoted more vigorously in future as plans take shape to explore the possible connections that the town has to one of the greatest figures in British history – King Arthur!

If this can be properly developed, there is huge potential for Llantwit to become a centre for mass tourism of the sort that already exists in other Arthurian centres like Glastonbury and Tintagel.

All the shops and businesses might benefit. Existing restaurants, cafés and pubs could see an upsurge in visitors seeking refreshments while there is potential for the shops to promote books, souvenirs and crafts.

Llantwit traders are already in talks with the Vale Council's new town centre manager Peter Lewis to promote the town in a variety of ways.

It is fair to say that, at the moment, possible commercial developments in Llantwit are on hold while everyone awaits news of the Metrix development.

Once this gets the final go ahead and work gets under way, there is no doubt that the area will benefit immensely from a scheme that will pump billions into the local economy and create hundreds of jobs.

There will also be new homes bringing in more people to support the shops and businesses of the area.

In the meantime, local businesses are preparing for the more immediate rush of visitors over the Easter holiday.

NICKLEBY'S Bookstore

General, Bargain and Second hand books.

Book searches welcome

Non-stock books ordered promptly!

Browsing is compulsory

6 Poundfield Precinct LLANTWIT MAJOR

01446 795166

Glaze *Illtud's 216 support*

Glaze Prostate Charity Wales

Enjoy our original Austrian Apple Strudel and help raise funds for cancer research in Wales!

Andrew Thomas (Consultant Surgeon, Bridgend) joins 15 Welsh captains in an attempt to climb to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro (19,340ft/5,985m) to raise funds for cancer research in Wales. In support of his mission we will donate £1.00 for every portion of Apple Strudel sold between March 23rd and September 26th 2010.

ace feet in motion — Footwear and Footcare Centre

Nail cutting service £10

Tel. 01446 790199

Opening offer: 10% off footwear with this advert.

Newport House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major — hpc

ACE - Feet in Motion is run by Podiatrists Amy Williams and Andrew James. Their new store in Llantwit Major is offering an extensive range of men's and women's comfort footwear from leading brands such as Hotter, Scholl, Cosyfeet and Padders as well as a full range of foot health services and products.

Our podiatry assistant Lisa Phillips is providing a nail cutting service by appointment for £10.

To make an appointment for nail care or to see our HPC registered Podiatrist call us on 01446 790199.

Please take advantage of this opening offer of 10% off footwear when you present this advert.

Browsing is Compulsory...

The Chocolate Box

3 East Street, **LLANTWIT MAJOR**

Continental & British Chocolates Greeting Cards, Gifts & Novelties

Exclusive, hand-made, Belgian chocolates plus diabetic chocolates, biscuits and preserves too!

- **Large range of Welsh gifts**
- **NEW Welsh language cards**
- **Celtic Jewellery plus agent for 'Carrie Elsbeth'**

Maureen Whiskerd has been tantalising tastebuds since 1997...

Tel: 01446 792196

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- Howell Insurance Services are independent insurance and mortgage brokers.
- We offer a complete range of insurance and mortgage services for all your commercial and domestic requirements.
- Based in Llantwit Major for over 40 years, it is our sole purpose to find an insurance or mortgage package that suits your needs.

Please feel free to contact us for a no obligation quote.

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www.howellinsuranceservices.co.uk

Howell Insurance Services Ltd are authorised by the FSA

Take a closer look - step inside...
www.westhouse-hotel.co.uk

West House Country Hotel

DATING back to the 16th century, this country hotel rests within the old part of the historic town of Llantwit Major.

The hotel prides itself in supporting the local community and local farmers as much as possible.

Our team of chefs, including our latest member from Le Caprice in London, offer a high standard of quality and presentation of food.

The hotel continues to be popular for all types of functions and parties; from weddings to birthdays to business meetings.

Sunday Lunches continue to be popular, not only with locals but many from far away.

The Christopher family extend their warm welcome.

Planning some quality time?
01446 792406

Cheers...
Celebrating our 6th year!

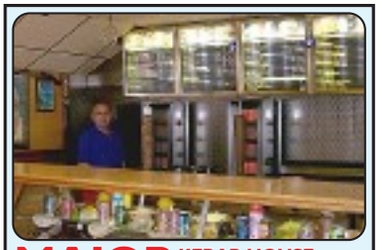
Quest have recently celebrated their 6th anniversary and would like to thank all their existing clients for their continued support; while offering a warm welcome to new clients.

OPENING HOURS:

Monday	9.00am - 3.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am - 8.00pm
Wednesday	9.00am - 5.00pm
Thursday	9.00am - 8.00pm
Friday	9.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday	8.30am - 2.30pm

Open Good Friday
Wishing everyone a happy Easter!
Gift vouchers always available....

EAST STREET • LLANTWIT MAJOR — **QUEST HAIR** — Tel. 01446 793563



MAJOR KEBAB HOUSE
East Street, Llantwit Major

ORIGINALLY, Ali ran his kebab business from his take-away van, located at what has now transformed into Llantwit Major's train/bus station.

Ten years ago, the family business expanded and relocated to East Street. Joined by sons Huseyin, Mehmet and two other staff members, their extensive range is in great demand.

Chicken/lamb kebabs, burgers, fried chicken, meal deals and a very popular pizza selection.

Pick-up orders welcome.

Open 7 days ☎ 01446 794922

Buy 2x9" Pizzas get a Garlic Bread FREE	Buy 2x12" Pizzas get a pot of coleslaw and 1 Chips FREE

Llantwit Major Town Council

Cyngor Tref y Llanilltud Fawr

Cllr Russell Downe Town Mayor, and Town Councillors of **Llantwit Major Town Council** *extend a warm welcome to all townsfolk and visitors this springtime.*

LLANTWIT MAJOR'S SPRING UPDATE . . .

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Ancient town that boasts of rich history and a warm welcome

With its medieval town hall (see far right) historical attractions, and the hospitality offered by local public houses, Llantwit has become a popular location for tourists visiting south Wales.

The Flower Shop

Spring has finally come at last. The Easter bunny is not far away. Come and visit Sarah & Wendy they have everything from hats to decorations... Something for Mum & Dad to do! To save the waistline, we have a wide selection of plants and planted containers or a beautiful bouquet.

Happy Easter to everyone!

01446 792264

2 Barons Close House,
East Street, Llantwit Major
Delivery service available

Travel in style!

FOR your wedding, why not enjoy the luxury of a beautiful Rolls Royce Silver Spur from Andy Cars, to complement and enhance that extra special day?

Be guided to your destination by the Spirit of Ecstacy – the unmistakable symbol of the world's most elegant and refined motor car?

Discount is available, if used in conjunction with our taxi service, or with our silver Mercedes E270 saloon.

Why settle for anything else when the most romantic and luxurious option is a phone call away?

Telephone 01446 795511 or 01446 796777.

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White Rolls-Royce Silver Spur now available

Discount prices negotiable when used in conjunction with our taxi service

Email: andrew.brown01@btconnect.com

Coldham & Co

Incorporated Financial Accountants

Gerry (the boss) and Ann (the worker) have been in Llantwit now for just over 12 months. We would like to thank all our existing clients for their continued support.

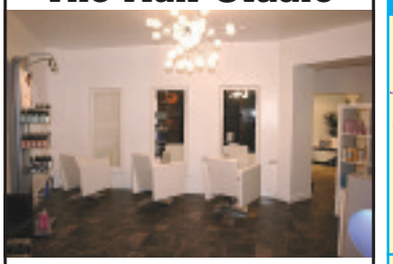
We offer an accountancy service tailored to your individual needs which includes bookkeeping, VAT, Accounts, Payroll, Tax Return preparation and filing on line.

Evening appointments can be made if required or visits to your workplace - all to suit you.

We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, ready and waiting to offer you a service that is something different, so give us a call on 01446 793867

Office: Unit 3, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB

The Hair Studio



HERE at Hair Studio we understand that each of our clients is an individual, and we are passionate about delivering results that are tailored just for you.

Since moving to our new premises we continue to go from strength to strength and our expanding team has been selected to meet all of our clients' needs, from the classic to the contemporary.

Our popular 'Diamond Group Discount' for the over 60s every Tuesday.

Late night opening on Thursdays.

Students discount every Saturday.

For a free consultation or to book an appointment, please call . . . ***The Hair Studio*** on ***01446 795580*** or pop in to see us at ***Commercial Street, Llantwit Major.***

ZENERGY

Visit our shop we have a range of *gifts, accessories,* exclusive *costume jewellery, crystals,* fantastic value *beads, incense, accessories for children* etc. While browsing book a *psychic reading* for yourself or with a party of friends with Ant who is a Psychic Intuitive Coach.

07979 985630

DO YOU KNOW who is phoning or who is at the door before you answer it?

We are holding a *DEVELOP YOUR INTUITION WORKSHOP* which will enable participants to enhance the power of intuition which lies within everyone. It will awaken your insight through proactive exercises which stimulate your perceptive muscle to find your true life purpose.

The workshop will be held locally on Sunday 25 April, from 1000-1600 hours (venue to be confirmed). Buffet lunch included in the cost of £59. Further information from Ant 07979 985630 or email zenergyinfo@yahoo.co.uk or pop into the shop in East Street.

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CARS, 4X4'S & LIGHT COMMERCIALS

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EXHAUSTS
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SERVICING FROM £30 + PARTS
BUDGET TYRES FROM £25 FITTED

HERITAGE BUSINESS PARK, WICK ROAD, LLANTWIT MAJOR. (FORMALLY KEN MORGANS) TEL: 01446 795855/07967 129977 (ALL WORK GUARANTEED) EST.1988

Jamima ~Bridal~

Located above Co-operative Travel, we are ideally placed for complete privacy for our clients. A good reputation for fabulous affordable gowns and excellent service is ensuring that we have Bridal Parties booking appointments from all over South Wales.

We will be attending the Paris Bridal Show in June to seek out even more beautiful gowns. Our formal Hire department will shortly be operating an After Wedding Pick Up Service, if required, for our clients, getting rid of the hassle of returning outfits!

The booking of Appointments is essential but we are very flexible and evenings are our speciality.

Please call 07845 161643 or email
janet@jamimabridal.co.uk www.thevaleorganisers.co.uk
Jamima Bridal, TVO Wedding Services,
7 The Precinct, Llantwit Major CF61 1XA

Step out in style... Special Occasions!

Perfect Fit
alterations to suit you

Gaynor
professional dressmaker

22 heol ger-y-felin
llantwit major
cf61 2xa
tel no. 01446 796284
mobile: 07766 880498
e-mail: gmcondo@hotmail.co.uk

Do you have a special event coming up soon, a wedding, a prom or birthday, but can't find the outfit your quite looking for. You've seen what you like but it's nowhere to be found. Then maybe we can help. Tell us what you like and we can make something perfect for you. Or maybe you have the outfit you want but it just needs a few alterations to make it a 'Perfect Fit'. No matter how big or small your sewing needs, I'm sure we can help you. Men, women, children we've even seen to your pets fashion!

Contact Gaynor:
T. 01446 796284 M. 07766 880498

A warm welcome awaits, eat drink and relax...

Mike, Jackie, Oliver & the team at the Blacksmiths Arms Llanmaes are delighted to announce that very shortly we will be launching our exciting summer menu and our little diners & young diners menu - for that family experience. From fresh salads & filled ciapini bread to great lunchtime specials and fantastic evening meals - our ethos - fresh, local, homecooked. Why not relax in the afternoon with a great fair trade Puro Coffee, or take it easy on a Sunday evening with our fun charity quiz? Telephone 01446 795996

LLANTWIT MAJOR'S SPRING UPDATE . . .

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

LEFT (top and bottom): Llantwit Major's commercial life straddles the 'old town' area and the Precinct.

Llantwit Major Autocentre

LLANTWIT Major Autocentre has been established since 1997, the proprietor, Peter Johns, has more than 41 years' motor trade experience. He has an experienced team of technicians, headed by Chris Stabler, the workshop manager.

He offers a full range of services; MoTs both petrol and diesel; servicing of all makes and models; competitively priced tyres; brakes; exhaust; batteries; parts and accessories; air-conditioning replenishment and service; wide range of diagnostic services and equipment.

Peter and his staff pride themselves on dealing with customers in a professional manner and keeping them well informed where costs are concerned.

Llantwit Major Autocentre: www.llantwitmajorautocentre.co.uk

LLANTWIT MAJOR AUTOCENTRE
Old Market Place, East St, Llantwit Major
COMPLETE CAR CENTRE
MECHANICAL REPAIRS & SERVICING
• MoTs • Tyres • Exhausts
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• Clutches • Parts & Accessories
OPEN 6 DAYS
Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm
Saturday 9am - 1pm
Tel: 01446 790100

CLOGGS FOOTWEAR LTD

rieker Padders

An extensive range for all the family at affordable prices.
Why not treat yourself for Easter!

Derek Driver is a merry old sole and a merry old sole is he. He's been in business over 30 years Making generations of feet 'comfeee'!

Boverton Rd, LLANTWIT MAJOR: 01446 793360

BritishRedCross Furniture & Electrical

PLEASE come in to see our wonderful selection of nearly new furniture and electrical items at wonderful prices.

"We didn't realise it was a charity shop" is the most common comment, and we are always looking for good quality donations.

Are you out of work, but want to do something worthwhile that looks good on your CV? We are urgently looking for a drivers' helper for the collection and delivery of furniture. This is a voluntary position, but all expenses are paid.

Please come in to see us - you are guaranteed a warm welcome!

18-19 Poundfield, Llantwit Major CF61 1DL.
Telephone: 01446 793665.

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As end of financial year arrives next week...

HEALTH BOARD HEADS FOR A £3.9m DEFICIT

THE Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board which runs hospitals serving Bridgend and the western Vale is likely to end up with a £3.9m deficit at the end of the financial year next week.

Management have been working hard to reduce this over recent months and ABM is one of the better new health boards in Wales.

Almost all of them are heading for big deficits as they grapple with inherited deficits caused, in some cases, by the merger of boards and trusts which took place last October.

Hywel Dda in west Wales is the worst with a projected £12m deficit with Gwent on £10m; Cardiff and the Vale on £5.5m; Cwm Taff on £5m and Powys on £7.6m. Only Betsi Cadwalladr in north Wales is set to break even.

ABM was created by merging the old ABM NHS Hospital Trust with the Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend Local Health Boards.

The ABM Trust was itself created three years ago by the merger of the old Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust with Swansea NHS Trust.

There were fears then among staff that Bro Morgannwg, which always ended in surplus at the end of the financial year, would be saddled with the financial problems from the Swansea end which was always in deficit. Financial director for ABM Eifion Williams has warned recently that the board was at risk of failing to deliver its statutory duties because of its financial problems.

A question was put to the ABM board by The GEM asking what those statutory duties were, but at the time of going to press, there had been no response – other than a provisional one stating that it could be a reference to the board's statutory duty to break even financially – but this has not been confirmed.

Staff at the Princess of Wales have already contacted The GEM about cut-backs, bed closures and staff shortages at the hospital caused by the board's financial difficulties.

The new board also runs all primary care services in the area, funding GP surgeries, dentists and pharmacists so any further cut-backs to balance the books will have far-reaching effects across the whole of the health service.

JAYNE ISAAC

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 610.

● **£2000:** 444578.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £500 was not claimed this week.**

● **£10:** 562934; 839707; 288634; 240223; 694731; 113075; 144895; 682267; 338540; 507237; 480885; 445304; 799978; 622693; 727649; 333529; 596149; 364995; 201490; 454070.

● **£5:**693158; 619605; 641997; 704702; 888011; 252482; 271331; 170146; 701551; 802985; 426158; 297215; 319606; 286986; 669051; 582087; 732529; 664409; 545821; 124939; 667811; 206608; 560960; 703859; 383409; 622341; 642878; 779795; 627105; 605914; 420155; 840532; 711008; 334004; 856971; 146883; 652699; 376899; 530009; 849395; 377920; 505316; 375510; 723587; 539484; 873084; 789097; 677486; 772032; 115445; 487724; 535374; 326829; 604990; 109854; 748263; 622922; 336100; 789129; 150857.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

The Big Brew!

Local schoolgirl Rebeka West was appointed Fairtrade's official reporter for the Big Brew event in Dinas Powys. Here is her account:

THE Big Brew took place in the Parish Hall, Dinas Powys on March 6. It was held from 10am till 12 noon.

It was held to celebrate Dinas Powys being a Fairtrade village. The purpose of the event was to show everyone the beautiful Fairtrade products they could buy, and raise awareness of Fairtrade. The schools from around the village entered competitions and their lovely work was on display. Thank you for all the schools that took part.

It was organised by the Dinas Powys Fairtrade team. It went very well and around 130 to 140 people came. There was a very warm welcome and at the door everyone was given a ticket to get a free Fairtrade kit kat! Also everyone who brought a cup, got a free Fairtrade cup of tea.

Fairtrade is very important for farmers and others who are less fortunate than ourselves. It is improving lives for many poor people from around the world and giving a reasonable amount of money for all their hard work.

There were lots of different stalls and many people got involved. Thank you to everyone who came and supported Fairtrade. It was a great success!

Rebekah West (age 10)

Roadworks report

Plassey Street, junctions with Glebe Street/Albert Road, Penarth – ongoing carriageway width restrictions.

Pontypridd Street, junction with Mount Pleasant – footway restriction in place ongoing.

Boverton Road, Llantwit Major – temporary traffic control until March 26.

East Aberthaw, Llysworney to AS48, Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys (Heol y Frenhinnes to Barry), B2468 Nash Manor to Cowbridge, A4222 Cowbridge to Ystradowen, Llandough to Leckwith Hill – temporary traffic control.

Broad Street, Barry (near Birdcage Walk) – carriageway width restrictions.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (HANNAH STREET BARRY) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2010

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below: -

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	Hannah Street Barry along its entire length
Reason	To allow for essential sewer works to be carried out
Duration	From 09:00am Monday 5th April, 2010 for a maximum period of 18 months.
Alt. Route	The signed diversion route will be via Commercial Street for Northbound traffic and Davies Street for Southbound traffic.
Signing:	Appropriate temporary signing will indicate the alternative route.
NB:	**Vehicle Access for residents ONLY will be permitted from the Court Road end.** Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

Dated this 25th day of March 2010.

M. Punter
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe CF5 6AA

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Out and About with The GEM

I LOVE YOU, PHILLIP MORRIS – AND YOU MAY DO SO, TOO!

COMEDIANS who move to dramatic fare are somewhat of a mixed bag; while Adam Sandler showed he could rein in his man-child tendencies in *Punch-Drunk Love*, *Spanglish* and *Funny People*, and Eric Bana has transferred from stand-up comedian to stand-out actor with the likes of *Chopper* and *Troy*, there have been many who have struggled to achieve the same acclaim.

One comedian who has made the successful leap is Jim Carrey, who has balanced the likes of *Dumb and Dumber* and *Bruce Almighty* with *Man on the Moon*, *The Truman Show* and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.

His latest sees him take on the true life tale of a con-man in *I Love You, Phillip Morris*. Carrey plays Steven Russell, a happily married family man who, after a car accident, reassesses his life and decides that not only is he gay, but also decides to live life to the fullest – whether that be legally or illegally.

When he is imprisoned, Steven meets Phillip Morris (Ewan McGregor). Falling in love, Steven is intent on building the perfect life for the two of them outside prison walls, and will do whatever it takes to achieve this, including a light spot of law breaking...

Stories of con artists and hustlers generally make for a quality viewing experience. Whether it be Leonardo DiCaprio being pursued by Tom Hanks in *Catch Me If You Can*, or Nicolas Cage conning people in *Matchstick Men*, the dubious world these characters inhibit are always brought vividly to life, and rarely do they position the con artist as the bad guy.

This much is true of *...Phillip Morris*, and while it perhaps doesn't quite scale the heights of those aforementioned works, it still makes for a pleasing experience.

While the casting of Jim Carrey in the lead may lead some to believe this is an out-and-out comedy, it is a little more obscure than his mainstream fare.

Carrey acolytes who appreciate the dark and twisted humour he offered in the much-maligned *The Cable Guy* will be on surer footing, as while this film doesn't plunge to the dark depths that film did, it is a little odder than, say, *Fun With Dick and Jane*.

Carrey delivers a wonderful turn as the man whose life seemingly willingly turns upside down into a world of crime. While the life of Steven Russell is an intriguing one in itself, Carrey plays the role broadly for comic effect, with the film occasionally lapsing into drama.

Given his talent for both the comedic and the dramatic, Carrey is well suited to the role, yet tends to provide too much of the latter and not enough of the former.

The mugging is restrained, but the performance, while strong, could have benefited from being rooted a little more in reality than it is.

A quality cast have been assembled around Carrey, and while they all bring the goods to the table, they are short-changed to a degree by a script that never gives them enough. Ewan McGregor seems to have been enjoying finding his feet in films that don't require as much star wattage, and follows up his role in *The Men Who Stare At Goats* with another warm and enjoyable performance.

Full of wide-eyed admiration for Steven, he shares good chemistry with Carrey and is a solid foil to his co-star; it is just a shame that he is little more than a cipher for the story, being given no backstory or real depth.

The same goes for Leslie Mann, as Steven's ex-wife, and Rodrigo Santoro as his ex-boyfriend. Both characters offer up decent turns, but it's more a result of their abilities as actors rather than anything the script feeds them.

It's a shame that the supporting characters, all of whom play such a pivotal part in Steven's life, aren't given enough meat to give the story some dramatic weight, and while the actors inhibiting the characters work hard, it isn't reflected in a screenplay that sidelines them.

Screenwriters and directors John Requa and Glenn Ficara take the incredible nature of the story and craft a film that is high on chutzpah and 'did that really happen' histrionics – some of Russell's schemes and ideas are so full of bravura that they lend themselves perfectly to the frothy nature of the film.

What they do a little less successfully, aside from offering a degree of depth to the events taking place, is work a way to get the events to gel.

As the film pounds its way towards its conclusion, there is a notable tonal shift from light-hearted to something far more serious; it's a shift with a sting in its tail, but even so, it feels a little awkward and takes the steam out of the film's engines a little.

I Love You, Phillip Morris is an intriguing and comedic proposition – its true-life origins make for a film that is highly interesting; while it may not hit stratospheric heights, the audacity of some of Steven Russell's scams will keep you engrossed throughout.

While the script isn't the best, overall it is a pleasing work that will entertain – and you may end up loving Phillip Morris, too!

VERDICT - A frothy crime caper, *I Love You, Phillip Morris* is a solid vehicle for Jim Carrey to show off both his flair for comedy and drama.

While a touch too light at times, and with a script that is far too reliant on the lead character, the performances and and strength of story iron out those flaws, resulting in a film that is entertaining.

Enjoyable.

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Travel back in time to Cosmeston

AS spring arrives and the trees burst into leaf, so Cosmeston Medieval Village prepares for yet another busy year.

The first event of the season is the Easter 'living history' event on April 4-11 from 11am to 5pm. Visitors will have the opportunity to see what life was like for rich and poor more than 600 years ago.

As visitors wander the village and see the buildings, artefacts and animals of medieval Wales they can stop and chat to villagers performing a variety of different crafts, from baking and tending the gardens, to herbalism and the more unpleasant skills shown by the surgeon!

There will also be the chance to try on armour and hold weapons of the medieval knight and even have a go at archery! For visitors with an urge to act, one of the village mummers will be asking for help in preparing a play to set before the manor's lord.

"But most important of all is the traditional Easter Egg Hung - not really medieval, but we all love it – and who could turn down the chance of some chocolate?" spokesperson said.

For more information call 029 2070 1678.

Country craft fair

THE Country Crafts and Gift Fair will be held in Old Hall, Cowbridge, this Saturday (March 27) between 10am-4pm.

Lots of stalls and plenty of variety.

Coffee date

THE Vale Mayor's charity coffee morning for Amelia Trust Farm will now be held on Tuesday, April 13 at St Helen's Church Hall, Barry.

NOTE: Change of date from April 6.

THE GLAMORGAN HUNT
Point-To-Point Steeplechases
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SATURDAY
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First race 1.00pm
Six races • Bar • Food • Family Fun

COWBRIDGE UNITED FREE CHURCH Easter Services 2010

Palm Sunday 28th - 10.30: Family Worship and Churches Together procession with donkey to Town Hall via Holy Cross Church
Monday 29th - 7pm: Churches Together Lent meditative worship at United Free Church
Maundy Thursday April 1st - 7 pm: Evening Worship with Lord 's Supper and foot washing
Good Friday April 2nd - 7 pm: Music and Meditation
Easter Day April 4th - 10.30am: Family Worship with communion;
6pm: Evening Worship for Easter with communion

www.cowbridgeunitedfreechurch.org.uk

Andrew RT Davies AM
Welsh Conservative Assembly Member for South Wales Central

Ceidwadwyr Cymreig
Welsh Conservatives

To attend an advice surgery, please contact:
Tel: 02920 898523
Office: 29 High Street, Barry, CF62 9EB
Andrew's next surgery:
Friday 26th March
10.00 am - 11.30 am
Website: www.andrewrtdavies.com
Email: andrewRT.davies@wales.gov.uk

European Funding

If your organisation works with people who are economically inactive, or unemployed and you aim to increase individual skills and experience for long term benefit then **The Engagement Gateway** Scheme may be for you.

If you would like to find out more about this scheme and the levels of contracts available, why not book a place on one of the following workshops?

Friday 7th May, 2010
Cowbridge Town Hall, Cowbridge. CF71 7AD
9:30 - 11am:
Engagement Gateway Scheme & Tendering Process
11:30 - 1pm:
The Pre Qualification Questionnaire

Monday 17th May, 2010
The Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, Barry. CF62 9DZ

1:30 - 3pm:
Engagement Gateway Scheme & Tendering Process
3:30 - 5pm:
The Pre Qualification Questionnaire

To book a place, or for further information please contact Natalie Sargent your local Engagement Gateway Volunteering Officer on (01446) 421782 or e-mail natalie@vvb.org.uk

Events organised by Vale Volunteer Bureau, 34 Holton Road, Barry. CF63 4HD

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Out and About with The GEM

Dress up or down for a pound – and raise a smile for Ty Hafan

SCHOOLS and local groups are being urged to take part in a 'Dress Up or Down for a Pound' campaign for Ty Hafan hospice on Friday, April 30.

A spokeswoman explained: "The life-limited children and young people who visit Ty Hafan, love to dress up and have fun while making the most of every precious moment they have left with their families.

"Show your support for them and join in the fun by dressing up or down and paying a pound so these life-limited children, young people and their families continue to get the comfort, care and support they so desperately need, completely free of charge."

Hayley Mason, a member of the busy family support team at Ty Hafan, recalls many dressing-up sessions at the hospice.

"In the past 10 years, I have been a cowgirl, a fairy, a shepherd, a sheep, a medieval queen, an army cadet, a snowman, a pirate, a Christmas present, a Christmas tree and a cracke! There is nothing we wouldn't do to raise a smile."

However you decide to dress on April 30, by donating just £1 to Ty Hafan you can help to keep on raising those smiles and making the world of difference to the lives of the families and children who use Ty Hafan's services.

For more information on how to take part in 'Dress Up or Down for a Pound' visit www.dressupordownforapound.co.uk or contact Gaynor on 029 2067 2060.

Hospice staff – Kirsty Clark, Tracy Hill, and Lynne Doyle ('Rabbit').

CAB calls for bilingual volunteers

THE Citizens Advice Bureau in the Vale and Bridgend is appealing for bilingual volunteers to man the phones.

CAB: Adviceline Cymru is a new bilingual service which provides callers with information, can recommend other appropriate local organisations and services and will also set up face to face appointments when needed.

It has been successfully piloted and is now ready to expand, thanks to a £750k boost from the Welsh Assembly government.

Full training will be provided for all Adviceline Cymru volunteers, including support to brush up Welsh speaking skills if needed.

Jane Clay manager of Vale of Glamorgan CAB said: "Enquiries to bureaux across Wales rose by 11% last year. Adviceline Cymru will enable even more people in Wales to access free confidential advice on any issue they may have.

"Absolutely anyone can apply but we're particularly keen to hear from Welsh speakers or anybody who wishes to brush up their Welsh"

For further information visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/amazeyourself or call: 08451 264 264 (English language line) or 01286 676 514* (Welsh language line).*

Easter at KPC Youth

KPC Youth will be open for the school Easter holidays with a packed programme of activities.

The centre is open to ages 8+ (with free admission, if members, for ages 13-17 years). Admission cost is otherwise just £1 per session, and £1.50 to become a member.

KPC also offers a FREE minibus service home for 13+ on a Tuesday and Thursday nights to Kenfig Hill, Cefn Cribbwr and Cornelly.

The programme includes:

Fishing Trip (Sunday, March 28); Go Karting (Tuesday, March 30); Quad Biking (Wednesday, March 31); Boxing (PM Thursday, April 1 and Thursday, April 8); Trip to the Crystal Maze + Bowling (Friday, April 9); Trip to see Moulin Rouge at Porthcawl Pavilion (Saturday, April 10); and lots of sports, the skate park, arts/crafts, and a range of workshops on Healthy Livestyles.

The centre opens daily from 10am, but will be closed for the Bank Holiday Weekend (April 2-5).

For details of forthcoming events, telephone 01656 745399.

KPC Youth is next to Pil Primary School, Off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle.

Cinema's story at the Park

THE history of Barry's last cinema, the Theatre Royal, is covered in an exhibition of memorabilia, photographs, posters and pictures at 'The Room in the Park'.

Put together by local resident John Moore, the 'From Chaplin to Bond . . . and beyond' exhibition at the Victoria Park venue will run from April 1-17. Entry is free, and it will be open daily from 10am-4pm (closed between 1pm-2pm on weekends).

The exhibition covers the building's 100-year history through the age of silent movies to the all-action blockbusters of the 21st Century, and includes extracts from old newspapers and prints from old newsreels.

Twinning meeting

THE Vale of Glamorgan Twinning Association will meet on March 31, at the Vale Civic Offices in Barry at 4.30pm, when 10 members, including two Vale councillors, and officers will be appointed.

The association will promote, support and develop links with Fécamp (France), Mouscron (Belgium) and Rheinfelden (Germany) – the Vale's twin towns – and Jurbarkas (Lithuania) and Neumarkt (Italy), with whom there are friendship pacts.

The Vale Council's cabinet has agreed a three-year funding package of £6,000 for the association.

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www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk

Anybody who wants clothes collecting, please contact the above telephone numbers

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BRO Radio and The Glamorgan GEM working together to bring you the very latest local news from your new community station, BRO Radio.

Got a news story for us? Then call us on **01446 420681** or email: news@broradio.fm or contact the Glamorgan GEM on **01446 774484**

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FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS & BANK HOLIDAYS

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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Peter Sheriaden - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 2nd April
Darryl Wyn - Guitarist/Vocals (9pm)

Saturday 3rd April
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A crowd pleasing band

Sunday 4th April
Samantha Adams - Vocalist (9pm)
Superbly powerful voice, one not to miss

Friday 9th April
Karaoke (8pm)

Saturday 10th April
Christine Black - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 16th April
The Mopheads (9pm)
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Dexters is a country tearoom where you can chill out!

DEXTERS @ FELINDRE MILL on the border of the Vale is a farm with a difference, and is just two minutes from J35/M4 and 10 minutes from Cowbridge.

Our country tearoom, set in a traditional timber-framed barn, offers morning coffee, light lunches and afternoon tea. There is even a tasty, dinky Dexters menu for the children! So if you are looking for somewhere to chill out, or meet friends for a coffee and a chat, why not call in and see us? We're sure Boris the cockerel and his brood of hens will be pleased to see you.

Re-opening 3rd April – Easter Saturday then Saturdays and Sundays 11.00 am - 5.00 pm

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www.dextersfarm.co.uk

Please visit us and the animals soon!

Pupils enjoy a World Books Day party !

Year-1 pupils dressed as their favourite characters.

THE pupils of St Clare's school recently celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite characters from books.

As you can see from these pictures, not only did the pupils have a great time, but their costumes were also superb!

LEFT: Megan and Menna enjoy World Book Day.

Bethan, Taylor and Lucia.

£100 boost for the Haiti charity appeal

Neil Harvey and Madeleine Moon.

FOLLOWING the successful Haiti charity concerts Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon was contacted by Brackla Tabernacle with a further donation for Haiti.

Mrs Moon explained: "The Building Company Leadbitter started the construction of the new Archbishop McGrath RC High School in Brackla in early February, which is at the rear of Brackla Tabernacle.

"Leadbitter became aware of the charity concerts held at Brackla Tabernacle and Bethlehem Church Life Centre to raise funds for Haiti and wanted to help too. They have generously donated £100. Neil Harvey at Brackla Tabernacle handed over the donation to me on Friday last.

"The final amount raised from the charity concerts, has now totalled nearly £2,000."

Shop star gets VIP treatment

Madeleine Moon with James Williams.

ON March 10, Madeleine Moon, MP for Bridgend, welcomed James Williams to Parliament as the Bridgend nomination in the Small Shop of the Year competition after receiving the most nominations for Kenfig Hill Post Office and Stores.

Nominations highlighted his community involvement and support for customers. "Nothing is too much trouble for James," said one nomination.

The MP reported that the all party parliamentary small shops group awards took place in the House of Commons, where the importance of town high streets was highlighted and the continuing role of small shops and businesses were celebrated.

James toured the Houses of Parliament and sat in on debates in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Mrs Moon commented: "While there can be no doubt that supermarkets, through their might in terms of purchasing power, can often offer goods at a lower price than a small shop, they find it difficult to compete in terms of quality and the very personal service that small shops are able to provide for their customers."

BRYNCETHIN UNDER-7s TAME VALLEY RAVENS

Under-7s Bryncethin v Valley Ravens

AFTER an open and entertaining start the home side made the first breakthrough.

Jake Whitefield, who captained the side, broke away and ran through to score and then Will Laverick ran away to score in the corner.

Ravens rounded off a good passing move with a score of their own, but following a pass out from Rhys Williams, Shaun Batchelor sprinted through to score his second try.

In the second half, Mike Gillette scored in the corner. Bryncethin turned the ball over again, and Rhys Cawley jinked around the defence to score.

Valley Ravens broke through to score but swift tries from Ifan Hunnan and Mike Gillette completed the scorning for Bryncethin and secured an 8-2 victory.

Player of the match was Shaun Batchelor.

Under-8s Bryncethin v Valley Ravens

VALLEY RAVENS scored two tries in each half to take the honours with a 4-0 victory.

Player of the day was Miles Blakeman

Squad: Jake Whitefield (captain), Shaun Batchelor, Miles Blakeman, Rhys Cawley, William Hughes, Ifan Hunnam, Shea Francis, Mike Gillette, Will Laverick, Ben Lewis, Josh Nuth, Hollie Morgan, Kane Walters and Rhys Williams.

Under-9s Bryncethin v Garw

THE first score came for Bryncethin from Josh Napper, this followed good work by Luke Board, Jack Thomas and Morgan Stephens.

This lead did not last long however with the Garw scoring almost from the restart to level the scores.

Bryncethin were growing in confidence and started to make good ground through the hard work of Aaron Thomas and Ethan Hopkins. The visitors who crossed just before half time to take the lead.

A flowing move was brought to a halt by determined Garw defence but good clearing out from Tobias Hunt created the opportunity for Josh Napper to score his second try of the game.

There was one more try left in the match. Ethan Hopkins used his strength and speed to cross for the deciding score, to make it 3-2.

Man of the match: Davis Pilkington.

Match Day Squad: Morgan Stephens (Captain), Davis Pilkington, Aaron Thomas, Finlay Mullens, Ethan Hopkins, Jack Thomas, Luke Board, Tobias Hunt and Josh Napper.

Under-10s Bryncethin v Valley Ravens

IT turned out to be a comprehensive 9-2 victory for the Bryncethin youngsters but the score line doesn't accurately reflect the contribution of the Valley Ravens youngsters.

Emyr Watkins crossed for two first half scores. Dafydd Evans and Iwan Veasey both crossed for further scores, followed up by one for Dafydd Evans.

The Ravens scored the final try of the half.

Further tries for Dafydd Evans and Emyr Watkins (2) stretched the lead but still Valley Ravens pressed

A well deserved try for Aaron Jones completed the scoring for the home team but great credit to the Ravens for continuing right to the end and being rewarded with the closing try of an entertaining game.

Man of the match: Emyr Watkins.

Match Day Squad: Owen Hart, Gethyn Napper, Aaron Jones, Dafydd Evans, Ryan Blake, Emyr Hunnam, Morgan Tarr, Iwan Veasey, Emyr Hunnam, Ryan Lovell and Ryan Morgan.

Under-15s Bryncethin v Kenfig

KENFIG scored with a great team move allowing their outside centre to cross for a well deserved try.

The Bryncethin boys raised their game, and quality ball allowed outside half Pritchard to cross for a try that he successfully converted.

Jamie Bartlett ran in the second Bryn try just before half time.

The second half was much of the same, with the Bryn pack dominating the set plays. Front row forward Owen Williams drove over to score the third well deserved try.

Bryn were then caught napping after Kenfig hacked through and indecision on clearing the ball gifted Kenfig a late unconverted try.

Final score 21-15 to Bryncethin.

Man of the match: Ryan Cross.

Best wishes to Conner Law who was given a clean bill of health after being taken off to hospital with a nasty bump to his head.

Squad - Forwards: 1 Tom Lewis, 2 Nathan Morgan, 3 Owen Williams, 4 Derik Prewitt, 5 Ryan Cross, 6 Curtis Jones, 7 Jamey Bartlett and 8 Dan Davies.

Backs: 9 Jordan Williams, 10 Lloyd Pritchard, 11 Conner Grisedale, 12 Curtis Wade, 13 Corey Bater, 14 Lewis Powell and 15 Jack F Charles.

Replacements: Conner Law, Lewis Taylor, Liam Johnston.

RH

BRIDGEND AREA NEWS...IN BRIEF

POLICE have been asked to monitor parking abuses in Bridgend town centre after 6.30pm.

Coun David Unwin told the town council that yellow lines count for nothing in the evenings, especially in Nolton Street, Derwen Road and Market Street.

He said that people park where they like and go. All the streets were on bus routes and buses had to try and negotiate their way around parked cars.

Chief Supt Carl Davies promised to flag this up to officers.

POTHOLES in Herbert Street are to be tackled by Bridgend's highways department, following complaints from Bridgend Town Council.

Coun Hadyn Morgan said that workmen had circled one pothole with paint but there were others that needed attention as well.

Coun David Unwin commented that every street had a problem with potholes at the moment because of the bad weather.

"It is an enormous problem for the council, with holes appearing everywhere. People must be patient."

PROBLEMS with cars parking on grass verges at Westfield Avenue were reported to Bridgend Town Council by Coun Barbara Parrish.

She argued that something should be done because the street is on a bus route but Coun David Unwin replied that the street was no different to a 100 others where people drove up onto grass verges. He said that it would be given no priority by the borough council.

A NEW bus service which runs from Llantwit Major into Bridgend via Merthyrmawr Road, does not always turn up, according to Coun Edith Hughes.

She told the town council that people were waiting for the bus in Merthyrmawr Road and nothing turned up. She spoke to a driver from the bus company involved who said that buses could not come down Grove Road because of double parking of cars.

She said that the buses were just driving straight into town but it had been agreed that the route would go via Merthyrmawr Road.

"We are trying to encourage people to leave their cars at home and use the bus but people have no faith in the bus services," she said. "I am cynical about public transport. This is supposed to be a hail and ride service but there's no hail and no ride."

Coun Diane Burns said it was nonsense to claim that the buses could not get down Grove Road when furniture delivery lorries, ambulances and fire engines all use the street.

It was agreed to write to the Vale Council which is subsidising the service and point out that the contract is being broken.

BCBC is to be asked to look at the problem of fly tipping along the old railway embankment separating old and new Brackla.

Coun Dennis Davey said that there was a lot of litter on this land which is owned by Paddle Homes. Coun Edith Hughes said that when it was raised before, the council had said it was private land and they could do nothing but Coun Hadyn Morgan said that when the land was owned by Gallagher's, the council cleaned it up and sent them the bill.

THE prototype Bridgend bag is to be taken around the small traders in Bridgend Town Centre to see if they will buy some to sell on to customers.

The bags will be made of cloth and will bear a logo designed by pupils of Penybont Primary School. They are being produced by the town council as part of the campaign to discourage the use of plastic bags.

Councillors will be volunteering to take the bags around once final costs have been obtained.

*You can read your GEM online at **bridgend-today.co.uk** or **porthcawl-today.co.uk***

Ogmore-by-Sea campaigners hold meeting with Vale AM

FOLLOWING a recent packed public meeting at St Bride's Major church hall, the Vale AM, Jane Hutt, agreed to meet Ogmore-by-Sea Campaign committee members, and chair Mr Ken Hubble, to walk along the coast path and view developments in the picturesque heritage coastal village.

Afterwards, the AM commented: "Ogmore-by- Sea is such a beautiful village and I have had a number of letters and emails since the public meeting from local residents, expressing their concerns about the proposal to develop more flats at the Sealawns site which was a pub and focal point for the community.

"We enjoyed a walk along the coastal path and viewed the developments that have already taken place in the village.

" I shall be making representations to the planning committee on behalf of the village," the AM added.

Cup glory for the under-16 Whites

Back row (left to right) Darren Perrie, Bradley Robinson, Rhys Clee, Lewis Crole, Hayden Lau, Tom Lodwig, Alex Houston, Andy Emery, Lewis Campbell. Middle row: Jonny Davies, Jake Lane, Leon Mcnally, T Tshose, Tom Easterbrook, Ben Thomas Front row: Jordan Marks (capt).

Under-16s Challenge Cup
PORTHCAWL WHITES 5
AFAN LIDO COLTS 1

PORTHCAWL under-16s Whites completed the first part of what could be a memorable season in their final year of junior football, as they are still in the semi-final of the Knockout Cup, the quarter-final of the Federation Cup and are also currently top of the Port Talbot & District under-16s division.

This first trophy was secured with an excellent team performance and an emphatic scoreline that allowed the manager to ensure that the full squad of 16 all played their part.

Porthcawl created many opportunities in a dominant first half and went in at half -time two goals to the good, courtesy of Hayden Lau and Ben Thomas.

The second half continued in much the same vein as the first, with further goals being added by Lau, and Alex Housten before Lido rallied to pull a goal back.

Ben Thomas rounded off the evening with his second which was to prove conclusive for both him and the team as he was later awarded the man of the match trophy. Captain Jordan Marks received the cup on behalf of his delighted team mates, parents, supporters and coaching staff.

The team wish to thank the Sandpiper Inn for their fantastic kit sponsorship, and also to all the behind the scenes officers at both Porthcawl Athletic Association and the Port Talbot and District Leagues.

Porthcawl under-15s ease to victory

NEATH DISTRICT SCHOOLS Under 15s 5
PORTHCAWL Under-15s 14

PORTHCAWL relished the challenge against a district outfit and playing away, this was a game to test all the seagull squad players!

Porthcawl were determined to carry on from the excellent display on the previous Sunday, as they defeated Mumbles to get into the Ospreys Cup Final.

Straight from the kick off the Porthcawl pack were quick and aggressive at the breakdown.

Adam Mounce, Jack Taylor and Evan Williams took the ball forward at every opportunity.

Ably supported by the excellent front five of Ben Smith, Jack Williams, James Baynham, Owen Wright and Emyr Wile, Porthcawl were contesting every loose ball, lineout and scrum.

Neath District had no answer for this impressive, well drilled Porthcawl pack.

Dan Evans and Kieron Bluck came on in the second half and the standard of play by Porthcawl and the options taking was superb.

Josh White continually pegged back the home team with accurate and long-range kicks.

Owen Wright, Evan Williams, and Kieron Bluck ruled the line out, while Ben Smith and James Baynham drove continually into the Neath defensive line.

Neath did hit Porthcawl with an opportunist try, but this was their only chance in the game.

Connor Rees and Skippy Matthews both enjoyed a fruitful evening with control at 9.

Geraint Watkins, Declan Brown and the pacey Lloyd Rosser Standford always took the ball up and tackled everything.

Michael Rawnson always looked to run the ball back at Neath and impressed with his many effective long runs.

A try by Josh White and three penalties meant that they were always leading and gave the Porthcawl XV an impressive 14 points to 5 victory at Banwen, on a windy, rain soaked Thursday night.

RD

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Bridgend under-7s triumph in Gloucester

PAINSWICK RFC v BRIDGEND ATHLETIC

ATHLETIC junior teams travelled to Gloucester on Sunday to play Painswick RFC and another English side Fairford RFC.

Game 1: The under-7s played Painswick first and from the start looked in control. Three tries were scored in the first half, all coming for the Ath through Daniel Elias, Jordan Gittins and Thomas Lewis.

Four more tries came for the Ath in the second half, with Jordan Gittins getting his second, followed by Euan Rees, Lloyd Anthony and Jordan Gittins rounding off a super win with his third of the day.

Final score: Painswick under-7s 0 Ath 7.

Game 2: The second game was much harder with Fairford bringing a strong side onto the field. Fairford scored an early try and Jordan Gittins pulled one back for the Ath before Fairford came back again to score another good try. Ath took the lead with Jordan Gittins getting his second and Euan Rees going over for the best try of the game.

Fairford finished the half the stronger with two more tries which put them in front on the half-time whistle.

The second half was another nail-biter. Ieuan Pippin scored first, followed by a try by Fairford which again put them into the lead.

Athletic scored two tries on the trot through Ieuan Pippin and Thomas Lewis. Fairford evened the scores.

Three more tries were scored in the last few minutes, two going to the Ath through Jordan Gittins and Thomas Lewis, before Fairford scored the last try of the game.

Final score: Fairford under-7s 7 Ath 8.

Under-8s

Game 1: The first game for the under-8s was a well balanced match with both sides playing some great rugby.

Athletic's Mason Hughes and Daniel Leyshon scored two good tries. Painswick scored a good try of their own before the Ath hit back again with Iwan Hill crossing for a well deserved try.

Painswick closed the gap to one try, but the final say went to the Ath with Emyr Anthony crossing over for another good try.

Ath scored two tries early in the second half through Morgan Bennett (who had just come on) and Daniel Leyshon's second of the game.

Painswick pulled one back but the Ath scored another two tries with Morgan Bennett getting his second and Mason Edwards also scoring.

Painswick scored a good try of their own to finish off the game.

Final score Painswick under-8s 4 Ath 8.

Game 2: The second game against Fairford under-8s also saw fantastic rugby from both sides.

Ath scored first with Dafydd Hitchings getting the ball rolling. Fairford evened up the score.

Another three tries followed for Ath with Iwan Hill getting his second of the day and Mason Hughes and Bobby Bromley also adding to the scoresheet. Fairford then pulled another try back.

In the second half, Fairford caught the Ath cold, with two tries.

Halfway through the second half, Ath started playing some good rugby. Isaac Watkins got his first of the day, but again some missed tags put Fairford in again.

With only two minutes left, Ath added two more tries to finish the game off through Bobby Bromley and Morgan Bennett.

Final score: Fairford under-8s 5 Ath 7.

Game 3: A third game was played to give Painswick's team a good run out and again it was end-to-end rugby. Ten tries were scored in total with the home team getting four of them and the Ath tries coming from Dewi Harding, Bobby Bromley (2), Isaac Watkins, Mason Edwards and Morgan Bennett.

Final score: Painswick under-8s 4 Ath 6.

Soroptimists boost Books fund

AT a recent meeting of Soroptimist International Bridgend, president Joyce Chatterton (pictured above) presented Joanne Williams from RNIB Cymru with a cheque for £1,000 for the 'Talking Books' project.

The money had been raised during Joyce's year through a variety of fundraising events.

Hostess for the evening, club member Marjorie Page, followed the presentation with a very interesting and enlightening talk about Clarice Cliff and her china.

Marjorie and Joyce provided members and friends with a buffet to finish the evening.

Oranges come up smelling of roses!

PORTHCAWL ORANGE under-14s 13
CYNFFIG 2

ORANGE welcomed Cornelly to Locks Lane hoping to bag all three points following last week's win over Baglan.

Orange had drawn 5-5 with Cornelly on a previous visit to Meadow St, so it was likely to be a high-scoring game.

Porthcawl manager Billy Crole opted again for the positive 3-4-3 with Luca Sidoli, Morgan Thomas and Jim Needs up front. Needs opened the scoring on five minutes and doubled the lead on 10 minutes.

Cornelly looked jaded, but played some nice football. Half-time saw Athletic 10-0 to the good with further goals from Fon Lodwig (captain), Needs, Jenkins and Gianluca Sidoli.

The Porthcawl defence of Liddell, Davies, Lewis, Durham, Thomas, and Simpson were totally solid, and never looked in any trouble.

Second half saw Needs and Morgan to get one each. Cornelly did get a deserved two goals, but Porthcawl hit back, with the sublime Banner getting Athletic's 13th.

Athletic entertain Porthcawl Whites on March 27 at Locks Lane for a 10.30am kick-off and a mouth-watering local derby in prospect.

Ryan Thomas was man of the match.

BC

Honours even for Tondu under-10s' 'out west'

CWMAVON UNDER-10S V TONDU UNDER-10S
by JIM KNIGHT

I MUST start this week's match report with an apology to Morgan-Owen Evans, who was awarded the Tondu Star of the Game from the match against Hirwaun three weeks ago. How could I put the wrong Evans' name down? Sorry Morgan-Owen!

Tondu travelled west this Sunday to play Cwmavon in a change of fixture for the under-10s. With clear skies and a firm pitch the omens were good for a running game of rugby.

The Tondu youngsters took the field with confidence and decided to receive the kick, which was dealt with very well and their attack began.

Good work led to a very early score for Garryn Thomas who was able to drive over from close range.

The restart took Tondu a little unawares as Cwmavon kicked when they expected a tap and pass.

The resulting line out provided ball for Tondu and they launched another attack. Cwmavon were unable to cope with the Tondu runners and soon found themselves close to their line, Garrryn Thomas getting his second from another drive.

This time Tondu were ready for the restart and again took the ball well and started moving upfield.

Garryn Thomas crossed the line for his third after good work from the backs.

The next try came after concerted pressure from Tondu close to the Cwmavon line led to a Cwmavon scrum, a good clearing kick saw the ball almost to the half way line.

Tondu had been aware and Jordan Morgan fielded the kick and went on a run to cross the line.

The restart saw a good kick and better chase from Cwmavon, and a fumble from the Tondu cover for the home side's first try. With the half drawing to a close Tondu again put huge pressure on the home try line and Ben Merchant was able to sneak over.

First Half: Cwmavon 5 Tondu 25

With a raft of changes made, Tondu kicked off the second half. Cwmavon were a different side showing more hunger for contact than the visitors and soon got their reward with a second score.

Tondu were unable to recapture their first half form and the ruck area was dominated by Cwmavon, leading to another score to reduce the deficit.

Tondu finally got themselves back into the game and began to play with some purpose again, training moves were tried successfully and confidence was building.

This saw Tondu again pressing towards the line and it fell to Jamie Richards to finally get the score.

Despite their best attempts Cwmavon were unable to increase their score in no small part to the tackling of Megan Flaherty on the Tondu left wing. No one got past her.

Second Half: Cwmavon 15 Tondu 30

To allow the larger Tondu squad more game time Cwmavon agreed to an extra period, for Tondu a half too far!

With more rotations made, Tondu played in fits and starts.

Despite some good defensive work, Tondu were unable to keep a hungry Cwmavon at bay and they got an early score to decrease the deficit again.

With little confusion from a penalty move, Tondu turned attack into defence and Cwmavon took the opportunity to get another try.

Cwmavon grew in confidence, and Tondu were able to hold out for a while, but the inevitable happened and Cwmavon scored their third try of the half to bring the scores equal.

Third Half: Cwmavon 30 Tondu 30

Tondu Squad: Ben Merchant, Megan Flaherty, Shannon Price, Josh Davies, Garryn Thomas, Callum Booton, Ioan Thomas, Taylor Lloyd, Morgan David, Iwan Knight, Jordan Morgan, Ryan Kershaw, Jack Llewellyn, Morgan-Owen Evans, Jamie Richards, Josh Evans and Eleri Knight.

Tondu Star of the Game was awarded to Megan Flaherty for outstanding tackling.

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HYSBYSU SAFLE O DDIDDORDEB GWYDDONOL ARBENNIG O DAN ADRAN 28 (1)

RHODDIR rhybudd trwy hyn bod Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru yn ystyried Cors Aberthin yn Safle o Ddiddordeb gwyddonol Arbennig (SoDdGA).

Y mae'r safle hwn 0.3 km i'r gogledd ddwyrain o Aberthin a 0.65 km i'r gogledd o Y Bont-faen yn Awdurdod Unedol Bro Morgannwg ac mae'n ymestyn dros arwynebedd o 11.7 hectar. Canolir y safle ar Cyfeirnod Grid Cenedlaethol ST003755.

Mae'r safle o ddiddordeb arbennig oherwydd ei laswelltir corsog a glaswelltir niwtral sy'n gyfoethog mewn rhywogaethau.

O dan yr hysbysiad hwn mae'n ofynnol i bob perchennog a deiliaid hysbysu'r Cyngor am rai gweithrediadau arbennig a allai amharu ar ddiddordeb arbennig y safle. Gall methu â gwneud hynny fod yn gyfystyr â throsedd.

Nid yw'r hysbysiad hwn yn rhoi unrhyw hawliau mynediad i SoDdGA Cors Aberthin.

Gall unrhyw un sydd â diddordeb yn y tir wneud sylwadau ynghylch yr hysbysiad yn ysgrifenedig at y Cyngor yn y cyfeiriad isod erbyn 23 Gorffennaf 2010.

Gellir cael manylion llawn am yr hysbysiad gan gynnwys map, disgrifiad o'r safle a rhestr o weithrediadau a allai fod yn niweidiol a datganiad o farn y Cyngor am reoli'r tir oddi wrth:

Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru,
7, Llys Castleton, Ffordd Fortran,
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WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 AS SUBSTITUTED BY SCHEDULE 9 TO THE COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY ACT 2000

NOTIFICATION OF A SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST UNDER SECTION 28 (1)

NOTICE is hereby given that the Countryside Council for Wales considers Cors Aberthin to be a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The site is located 0.3 km to the north east of Aberthin and 0.65 km north of Cowbridge in the Unitary Authority of the Vale of Glamorgan and covers an area of 11.7 hectares. Centred on National Grid Reference ST 003755.

The site is of special interest for its marshy grassland and species-rich neutral grassland.

Under this notification there is a requirement on all owners and occupiers to notify the Council of certain operations which may damage the special interest of the site. Failure to do so may constitute an offence.

This notification does not confer any rights of access to Cors Aberthin SSSI.

Any person with an interest in the land may make representations regarding the notification in writing to the Council at the address below by 23 July 2010.

Full details of the notification including a map, site description and list of potentially damaging operations and a statement on the Council's views about the management of the land can be obtained from:

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FOSTER
Campbell William

Peacefully, on March 19th at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend after a short illness, Campbell of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of Chris, loving father of Julia and Meurig, Emma and Rich, proud son of Margaret and John, brother of Malcolm. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, March 30th, service 2pm at The Gathering Place, St Athan followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.45pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to St Athan Methodist Church or The Salvation Army, both c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

Clarice May Jones

The Family would like to thank all of their relatives, friends & neighbours for messages of sympathy received during the recent bereavement. A special thank you to Dr McGovern, district nurses and Marie Curie nurses, especially Jackie, for their compassion and care. A thank you to Nan, Aelene and Babs. Also to Insight Club Cowbridge, Kay from Age Concern and the staff at the Red Cross at the Gathering Place. A final thank you to all who attended the funeral, Reverend Binny and Reverend Prince for a lovely service and W James & Son, Funeral Directors and kind donations to Marie Curie nurses.

TURRELL
Clive Edward

Clive passed away peacefully, at home, in the presence of his family on Sunday March 21, after a long illness fought with great strength of spirit.
He was the loving and dearly loved husband of Marilyn, the loved and respected father of Andrew and James, father-in-law of Amy and adored grandad of Milly and Elsie (in New Zealand).
He was also a very dear brother-in-law, uncle and friend to many. His sparkling wit and great sense of fun will be sadly missed by all who came into contact with him.
Resting at WA Brown & Son, Pembroke House, College Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1SG until the service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend, on Wednesday March 31 at 2.45pm (where all please meet).
Flowers may be sent to the funeral home, or if wished donations for Macmillan Cancer Relief, or Marie Curie Cancer Care may be given to the funeral director (cheques only, please).

Thank You

Pat and Ben Walker

would like to thank their family for their love, help and support since Pat's accident.
Thanks also to our friends, neighbours and Llantwit Major Twinning Association for their cards, gifts, prayers, good wishes and continued support.
We wish you all a Happy Easter.

Anniversaries

50th Wishing a Happy 50th
GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
to **Barbara** *and* **Ted Sims**
26th March 2010
With love from all your children
Debbie and Ray,
Jonathan, Jayne and Tony,
Kelly and Carl
also your grandchildren and great granddaughter
50th 50th

Birthdays

Laurence Thomas FOGG
30th March
Congratulations on your **18th** birthday
Love, Mam, Dad, Kath, Evan, Emily, Kim and Chris

Happy 65th Birthday • Happy 65th Birthday
Happy 65th Birthday
ELLEN WILLIS
March 17th
OAP at last!
Love from I, B & N
x x
Happy 65th Birthday • Happy 65th Birthday

ANYSHA PANESAR
29th March, 2010
Not-so-sweet 16 at last!
Happy birthday baby, Love you so much, Mum, Dad & Toby
x x x

Happy 16th Birthday
ANYSHA PANESAR
29th March, 2010
Have a wonderful time in Canada and New York!
Lots of love, Nan and Bampa xxx

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HAPPY 16th BIRTHDAY NYSH!
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Lots of love, Dylan.
xxx

Happy 43rd Birthday Harby!
29th March, 2010
'Losing weight, but getting older!'
Lots of love from all your wonderful loving family! x x x

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Alison Maker
28th March 2010
Happy 21st Birthday "Aliy"
Lots of love Mum, Dad, Andrew & Bev

Pony club holds award night for young riders

THE fourth Glamorgan Pony Club annual presentation evening was held recently in the Reading Rooms in Bonvilston.

District Commissioner Norma Griffiths started off by thanking everyone who puts in so much help throughout the year, and handed over to secretary Annie Whitehouse, who gave a review of the year.

The highlights included camp week, winning all the classes in the team show jumping winter series in Talygarn, and the annual duck race, to mention but a few.

After the run-through of the accounts, Norma introduced Mike Gibbon, Master of Fox Hounds of the Glamorgan Hunt and president of Glamorgan Pony Club, to hand out certificates to members who had represented Glamorgan at various area competitions:

Area quiz: Evie Vaughn Jones, Tom Brinn, Gemma Brinn, Alice Pembridge, Emma Lockwood, Ellie Dix, Louise Edwards, Adam Dix, Nonnie Medlicott, Bethany Jarvis, Ellie Medlicott, Madison Garland, Alyson Bater.

Area Tetrathlon (minis): Genevieve Kirk, Ellie Medlicott.

Area eventing: Pippa Hayes, Emma Lockwood, Bethany Jarvis, Bethan Allman, Jessica Tidley, Alice Pembridge.

Area dressage: Emma Lockwood, Pippa Hayes, Jessica Tidley, Alice Pembridge, Bethany Jarvis, Ellie Medlicott, Madison Garland.

Alice Pembridge.

Adam Dix.

Area show jumping: Jessica Tidley, Ellie Dix, Alice Pembridge.

Next was the presentation of the cups: The best attendance under-12 went to Luke Tidley, over-12 to Bethan Allman.

Best turned out throughout the year went to Ellie Dix.

Represented pony club most times – to Alice Pembridge.

The Hunter trial cup went to Adam Dix.

The most improved rider went to Evie Vaughn-Jones.

Mike finished off the evening with a huge thanks to Norma for her hard work, and to the children who make it all worthwhile.

The club caters for all abilities, from leading rein to B test level and above. Anyone interested in joining, should come along to a Wednesday evening rally at Spring Meadows, Llandow, or telephone Norma 01446 734687.

Bethan Allman.

Ellie Dix.

Luke Tidley.

Evie Vaughn Jones.

It is a 'remarkable resurgence' as...

Town fight back to reach semi-final

COWBRIDGE Town continued their remarkable resurgence with a win that sends them into the semi-finals of the Vale of Glamorgan League Cup at the expense of Cadoxton Imps.

Cowbridge showed great determination to seal victory and dispatch the Imps for the second successive weekend.

The Red and Blacks again lined up at Barry Sports Centre, minus a couple of key individuals, and struggled in the early stages as the Imps set the pace. Not helped by playing into a strong headwind, Cowbridge failed to find their passing rhythm and allowed the hosts to take the lead after just 10 minutes.

A hopeful cross came off the Town bar and with no defender in sight, the Imps' striker tapped in for 1-0.

It got worse shortly afterwards as a strong home side continued to dominate without carving out too many clear openings. A second had been on the cards, however, and duly came courtesy of a low drive which nestled into the bottom corner of Ian Bavey's goal.

It didn't look as if Cowbridge would be seeing any more cup action this season, but Town showed that a bit of luck can often pay dividends in this game – and so it proved as two of the scrappiest goals seen this season got Cowbridge back on level terms before half-time.

Against the run of play, a hopeful ball into the box came off the shoulder of striker Jack Gavin to find the net at the near post, despite the presence of half a dozen defenders.

With half-time looming, the equaliser came in not too dissimilar fashion as a looping effort was somehow not pushed over by the Imps' goalkeeper, and as the ball dropped after hitting the woodwork, a sea of bodies engaged in a scramble that eventually saw Matthew Pound bundle the ball home.

Manager Ed Jones read the riot act at half-time and his Cowbridge charges knew they were fortunate to be level. In a classic demonstration of a game of two halves, Town showed why they have now won seven straight games with a second half display that showcased plenty of ability and a fine team spirit.

Luke James was instrumental as Cowbridge banished any thoughts of first half sloppiness with wave after wave of attacking moves. Lloyd Lewis was unfortunate not to finish off the move of the match after two minutes when he shot just over.

Town did take the lead for the first time in the match, courtesy of a Craig Burrows header, the captain rising at the back post with a trade mark effort.

Cadoxton saw little of the ball for the rest of the half as Cowbridge looked to seal victory in style. An effort by Gavin went wide after he had collected a neat through ball, while Town were finding joy down the right, thanks to some pinpoint passes by James.

Luke came close with an ambitious 40-yard effort before sealing a semi-final place for Bridge with 10 minutes remaining. Finding himself onside from a ball over the top, the tricky winger placed an effort over the advancing keeper to spark great joy in the away side's ranks.

Having been two down and shell-shocked after half an hour, the side showed a brilliant attitude to turns things around and seal a terrific victory at the second placed side in the league.

Llantwit Major Junior football round-up

by GWYN JOHN

THE heavy rain on Friday night put paid to many matches across south Wales on Saturday.

Only one match went ahead at Windmill Lane, where Llantwit Major under-12s played Holton Road.

Both under-14 A and under-15 matches were postponed, as their pitches were waterlogged.

The under-12 side kept up their good form to beat Holton Road 7-0, to complete another double and move further in front at the top of the league.

This week, the goals were shared between Will Perkins (2), Richard Stevens, Kristian Jones, Richard Dangerfield, Luke Allison and Harvey Stockford.

The under-14 B side travelled to Dinas Powys A and lost 5-0 on a waterlogged pitch, which was unfit and the game should have been called off.

The under-13 B also followed a similar fate in losing to Dinas Powys B 6-0 on the adjoining pitch.

The club are certainly hoping for better weather to catch up on the fixture backlog.

Dinas Powys regret missing vital chances

BRYNTIRION 2 -DINAS POWYS 1
WELSH LEAGUE - DIVISION 1

AFTER a thorough pitch inspection by the referee, this game was deemed playable after heavy rain during the day.

The hosts had the best of the early exchanges, Ricky Hodge shooting wide from a corner and Jon Cuss volleying wide.

Dinas began to assert some pressure of their own when a good run and cross by Rhodri Foote was met by Joe Hinds, but the chance was cleared. On the 15 minute mark, Barry Pappin took a free kick which found Jacob Rudman whose shot cleared the cross-bar.

This was followed by another chance when a shot from Hinds was blocked but fell to Mark Dunford who hammered the ball home but was adjudged offside.

Dinas finally got the breakthrough on 25 minutes when Hinds again broke into the box but was chopped down.

This time Dunford made no mistake from the penalty spot to give the visitors the lead.

The hosts then upped the pressure and Dinas held their lead for just 12 minutes before Lloyd Davies was adjudged to have tripped a Bryntirion forward in the box and Tom Wellington made it 1-1 from the spot.

Just before the interval the visitors' superb keeper Peter Blain had to make a diving save to gather a deflected shot and had to make another save when Cuss got a shot on target from a corner but the half ended level.

Dinas had early chances at the start of the second half, Dunford latching onto a through ball but his effort was just wide and a good passing sequence between Hinds and Dunford set up substitute Provis for a chance but he was closed down.

As the half wore on the hosts began to get on top and Blain put in a man-of-the-match performance blocking shots from all angles and tipping one deep cross cum shot from the Bryntirion captain Paul Evans over the bar.

However, the pressure finally told when a cross from the left was swept home by Anthony Rawlings to give the hosts the lead with 15 minutes remaining.

It was backs to the wall time for Dinas as the very fit Bryntirion side looked to increase their lead.
Hodge did manage to beat Blain but his effort was ruled offside and Dinas saw out the remaining minutes to keep the score respectable.

Dinas can reflect that they can match the best teams in the division after their performances over the last three matches.

Further details can be found on the club's website at www.dinaspowys-fc.co.uk

Bebb returns to home club

Left to right: Sion Bebb, club captain Len Bosley and Ryder Cup Wales chairman John Jermine with Iestyn Harridge, a pupil at Tonysguboriau Primary School.

GOLFERS at a club in south Wales will be able to practise and learn indoors, thanks to the impact of The Ryder Cup coming to Wales in October.

Llantrisant and Pontyclun golf club have new indoor practice nets, teaching facilities and putting area, officially opened by PGA European Tour star Sion Bebb, who learned to play as a junior member at the club before travelling the world in the professional ranks.

The club aim to produce more top players like Bebb in the future because of the new facilities and a drive to encourage children, women and men to take up the game at the Talbot Green course, thanks to a grant from Ryder Cup Wales showing the impact the event is having on Welsh golf at all levels.

For the first month after the official opening on March 19 there will be free lessons for ladies on a Tuesday, juniors and men on a Saturday, using the new state-of-the-art facilities.

Bella wins at Uttoxeter

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY farmer Phil Dando saw his eight-year-old old homebred mare *Bella Haze* land the Totescoop Handicap Hurdle under David Prichard (19) at Uttoxeter last Saturday.

A winner of three of her last four races, *Bella Haze*, a 12-1 chance, was given a peach of a ride by her determined young rider, who is making a name for himself.

Bella Haze could run at Cheltenham next in a mares only race.

The men's open race and the ladies' open race at the Curre & Llangibby point-to-point were both won by horses qualified with the Pentyrch Hunt.
Keith Pritchard's *Cannon Bridge*, ridden by Welsh champion rider Isabel Tompsett, made all the running to land the ladies' open by four lengths from *Grey Kid* and Mrs Rae Jones' *Up There*, partnered by Liam Payter, took up the running approaching the final fence to score by seven lengths from *Saint Reverien*.

Robert Rowsell's *Divvys Dream*, who is also qualified with the Pentyrch Hunt, took the second division of the maiden under John Norman in a time which was eleven seconds faster than *Go On Paddy Joe* had taken in winning the first division.

Norman, who rides out for Aberthin trainer Tim Vaughan, was denied a double when his club members' mount *Sams Lad* was beaten a neck by *Prioritsation*.

Cowbridge's James Tudor riding Lynda Lovell's *The Boat* took the restricted race after leading five fences from home to score by twelve lengths from *Turn Card*.

The Boat, who had failed to finish in his previous three starts, looks sure to go on to better things
now that he appears to have sorted out his jumping problems.

BRIAN LEE

Schoolboy reaches boxing finals

DANIEL RUFFLE, a member of Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, has reached the British School boxing finals.

The young boxer is representing Wales at light flyweight in the competition, being held in the famous Troxy Theatre in London's Docklands on Thursday, March 25.

Daniel boxes for Llantwit Major Amateur Boxing Club. Dillion Cooke has reached the ABA final, held on the same night. Both boxers are on the next club show to be held at Llantwit Major RFC on April 15, together with other local boxers from St Athan, Llantwit and Rhoose, including some female bouts.

Daniel Ruffle.

THE KARATE TIGERS EARN THEIR STRIPES

ABOVE: The pupils who took part in the grading examination.

BARRY YMCA Hub was the venue when the latest Vale Karate Tigers grading examination took place.

More than 20 children from four to seven years, who train at Vale Karate on Saturday and Monday classes at the YMCA, demonstrated a series of techniques in order to earn new belts – material proof that they are all improving.

Vale Karate chief instructor and head coach Rob Copeland, has adapted the traditional syllabus for this age group, aiming for a more gradual improvement, ensuring the children enjoy their karate as they earn striped belts between the traditional Kyu grades.

Rob said: "I've been delighted with the development of this group of children and am used to seeing huge improvements in young children's confidence.

"I have also been hugely encouraged by the response of parents, with many reporting a great improvement in their children's general behaviour.

Barry Town rue missed chances

Nathaniel Car Sales cup semi-final	
BARRY TOWN	1
CROESYCEILIOG	2

BARRY Town went into this game with confidence, having appeared to have turned the corner after some indifferent results in January and February.

There were changes to the team, with Atif Bashir, Jaymes Dixon and Lewis James all cup-tied and Kirk Huggins joining the lengthening injury list.

Even with all these changes, the team should still have been good enough to win the game against their struggling second division opponents. Cup games bring some strange score lines and this game was to prove that.

The team started well and were soon into their renowned passing game, but within a few minutes a quick ball out to the right was floated into the Barry Town penalty area and suddenly Croesy were one up.

The Dragons were straight back into the match and pressured the Croesy defence before a cross from the left by Nickie Jones found Sam Small at the far post to level the scores.

Barry Town completely dominated the first half but were susceptible to quick counter-attacks and were nearly caught out, but a brilliant stop from Dragons keeper Dan Bradley saved what seemed to be a certain goal.

The second half was marred by a serious injury to Croesy defender Huw Williams, who was taken to hospital. The game was held up for 10-15 minutes and the break seemed to spur Croesy on.

Within 10 minutes, they had taken the lead again with a carbon copy of their first. The Dragons hit the crossbar twice and chances which should have been taken were not.

The Croesy defence stood firm against a Barry Town team which had the majority of the skill, possession and territory, but it's goals that win games and Croesy had two.

In the dying seconds, a Croesy defender appeared to handle the ball on the line to stop what looked like the goal to take the tie into extra time. Unfortunately for The Dragons, neither the referee nor his assistant saw the offence, so Croesy hung on for the win.

While all at the club were desperately disappointed with the outcome, we wish Croesy the very best of luck in the final, and also wish Huw Williams a speedy recovery.

Karate club has a new training centre

LOCAL karate champs Lee and Spencer Bennett, chief instructors of the Rising Sun Karate Club, are on a roll!

After raising more than £1,000 for local injured war hero, Dale Leech, and the charity Help for Heroes, they have opened their own training facility, the 'Samurai Martial Arts Centre and Power Strength Gym' for members of the club.

The beginners class is every Tuesday at 7pm in the new centre which is adjacent to The Savoy.

For the younger juniors, we have the Rising Sun Rising Stars. This involves using fun and games to teach four to seven-year-olds the discipline of martial arts in a friendly environment.

Sempai Spencer's British title.

For more information, contact Sensei Lee (3rd dan) or Sempai Spencer (2nd dan) on 07861 699476 or 01446 744503.

Knap fightback comes up short

KNAP FC were home to Cardiff Airport and fell behind to an early goal.

However, Knap looked comfortable with the premier league leaders with Steve Coxon playing the lone striker and working his socks off.

The midfield of Chris Bardsley and man of the match Wayne Davies, with the ever-present Walters, were having a lot of the ball, with Matthew Bradley and Russ Ware working the wings with purpose and energy.

The back four of Kevin Payne, Matthew Watts, James Howe and Jordan Ross were in control but after 65 minutes, the knap went three-nil down quickly.

A quality looping goal by Wayne into the Airport top corner cut the deficit but an error at the back let the Airport in for their fourth.

However, the Knap weren't finished and scored twice, the second from Wayne Davies.

They were back in it, with a chance to pull off one of the greatest come backs in Barry cup history – but it was not to be.

Good luck to the airport in the final

Final score: Knap FC 3 Cardiff Airport 4. **LI**

Wales women fall just short against Italians

WALES women came up just short against Italy at Pencoed RFC with a final score of 19 –15.

In the first half Naomi Thomas notched a breakaway try to set things off and at half time Wales looked confident of a win with a 12 - 0 lead.

Italy's pep talk led to a transformation in the match and they scored two tries in 10 minutes, and took the lead.

Wales could only add a penalty in the second half, and the players were devastated to come up short.

● Pencoed Phoenix women's team will play their first game at Pencoed on Easter Sunday at 2pm – come along there's entertainment and a barbecue.

Julie Hancock

Wanderers snatch defeat from the jaws of victory

VALE Wanderers faced St Peters at Dinas Powis and pushed their more experienced opponents to the brink of defeat.

Such has been the improvement in the Wanderers squad in recent weeks that the days of 40 point beatings seem a long way behind the team.

Wanderers dominated the contact area in the first five minutes, crunching tackles went in from second row Bradley Boyland and captain Rhys Forse.

After recovering from the shock of being knocked backwards on many occasions St Peters re-grouped to score the games opening try after some good ball retention work at the ruck. The try went un-converted.

The Wanderers came back at the visitors with powerful running from the pack and good hands from the backs who were supplied with good quality ball from the ever improving Theo Richards at 10.

From a series of drives out wide, Jordan Schembri picked up from the base of a ruck and used all of his height to place the ball on the try line for an unconverted try, to level the scores.

The half continued with the Wanderers dominating, however the visitors held firm to reach half time with the scores level.

The Wanderers started the second half with more hard hits and good ball retention.

The next try came from captain Rhys Forse who shook off several would be tacklers to score under the posts for a try which was converted by Theo Richards.

With St Peters looking shocked, the Wanderers extended their lead with another powerful surge by captain Forse which was again converted by Richards.

Several further chances to extend the lead went begging before St Peters hit back with two un-converted tries to bring the scores to 19-15.

The visitors decided to run the ball from deep and their replacement centre scored the winning try with only seconds left.

The Wanderers came back from the kick off but a knock on deep in the visitors 22 bought the game to an end.

The relief on the visitors faces was clear to see as was the disappointment on the Wanderers faces.

However, the boys can be very proud of the way they pushed St Peters to the end and came within inches of securing a fantastic victory.

TJ

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

The GEM welcomes your match reports, and other club items of interest.
Email them to:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk
or post to the Editorial Department, The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL

Llancarfan trainer Evan's hat trick...

Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams teamed up with stable jockey Paul Moloney to bring off an astounding hat-trick at Taunton with *Halling Gal* (20-1), *Agente Romano* (11-1) and *Tiger O'Toole* (9-2) leaving his followers smiling all the way home.

Just for good measure, Debbie Hamer, who hails from Bridgend but who is now based in Carmarthen, took the novices' handicap hurdle with 25-1 chance *Michigan Assassin*.

Ogmore's Christian Williams notched-up a 33-1 double when landing the first two races at Huntingdon on *Haarth Sovereign*, the even money favourite and 16-1 chance *Talenti*.

Both are trained by Lawney Hill and the former won by two-and-a-quarter lengths from *Ten Pole Tudor* and the latter by five lengths from *Ackertac*.

Cowbridge's Bryn Palling, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday, landed the principal race at Southwell with his six-year-old *Arthur's Edge*, a 9-1 chance ridden by Welsh jockey David Probert.

Aberthin's Tim Vaughan chalked-up his first winner at Britain's newest racecourse, Ffos Las, when his *Chapel Flowers*, a 3-1 shot, ridden by stable jockey Richard Johnson, got home by a neck from *Alesandro Mantegna*.

BRIAN LEE

Tai Chi

A LOCAL group who have been learning Tai Chi through the Vale's lifelong learning courses for adults, are saying farewell to their teacher, Gwenan Evans, who leaves a "very happy, well informed group" that intends to carry on with a new teacher at the Youth Centre in Llantwit Major.

Anyone interested should contact the Old Hall at Cowbridge on 01446 773831.

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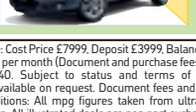

09 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SXI 3DR
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165/70R13 Bridgestone B250	£46.20	£87	£165	165/70R13 Avon ZV5	£37.22	£70	£135	165/70R13 Tenyal	£29.34	£55	£105
175/70R14 Bridgestone B250	£59.40	£112	£210	175/70R14 Avon ZV5	£47.00	£90	£170	175/70R14 Tenyal	£33.60	£62	£115
175/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£52.00	£89	£170	175/65R14 Avon ZV5	£40.30	£75	£140	175/65R14 Tenyal	£33.12	£60	£115

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185/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£65.00	£120	£230	185/65R14 Avon ZV3	£50.22	£95	£185	185/65R14 Tenyal	£35.22	£67	£130
185/65R15 Bridgestone EH300	£73.00	£132	£255	185/65R15 Avon ZV3	£53.00	£102	£199	185/65R15 Tenyal	£37.22	£70	£135
195/65R15 Bridgestone B250	£82.00	£108	£205	195/65R15 Avon ZV3	£60.00	£95	£185	195/65R15 Tenyal	£38.07	£73	£140

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195/60R15 Bridgestone EH300	£75.00	£135	£260	195/60R15 Avon ZV5	£59.22	£115	£220	195/50R15 Maxxis	£43.07	£80	£150
195/55R15 Bridgestone EH300	£63.00	£110	£210	195/55R15 Avon ZV5	£52.00	£99	£190	195/55R15 Federal	£43.00	£80	£150
205/55R16 Bridgestone EH300	£72.00	£125	£240	205/55R16 Avon ZV5	£62.00	£120	£230	205/55R16 Federal	£52.22	£99	£190

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205/55R16 Bridgestone EH300	£77.22	£145	£275	205/55R16 Avon ZV5	£65.22	£120	£230	205/55R16 Hero	£48.37	£90	£170
225/45R17 Bridgestone RE050	£103.00	£199	£390	225/45R17 XL Avon ZV5	£86.22	£165	£320	225/45R17 Hero	£54.72	£100	£190
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Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating Mazda dealers for new vehicles contracted and registered between 1 January 2010 and 31 March 2010. *0% finance available on Mazda3 Tamura with minimum 50% deposit required[0]. A lower deposit will increase the amount of re-payments. Offer not available in conjunction with Government Scrappage Scheme. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantors/Indemnifiers may be required. Mazda Financial Services PO1 0DR. Model shown: Mazda3 Tamura. OTR price £14,995. On the road price includes £55 VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, 1st registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years European Roadside Assistance. Details correct at time of going to print. *Test drives subject to applicant status and availability.

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04 04 TOYOTA Celica VVTi 1.8 39k, leather

£5,775
07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus, grey met, 39k miles

£15,975
00 W PORSCHE Carrera 4 Coupe Auto, 75k miles

£8,975
04 04 CHRYSLER Crossfire 3.2 v6, grey met, 21k miles

Finance example

Amount of credit: £4975.00
35 Monthly payments of £163.06
Final payment of £462.06
Total charge for credit £1194.16
Total amount payable £6169.16
Weekly equivalent £39.55

APR 14.82%
*Photos are indicative only

Small Cars

03 03 FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 5dr. Blue met, 47k miles, rcl, pas, e/w, cd £2,975
02 02 SUZUKI Wagon R 1.3 GL Special 5dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, a/c, e/w, alloys £3,475
05 05 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, ew, pas, cd £3,965
04 54 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 3dr SXI. Blue metallic, 53k miles, rcl, alloys, ew, pas £3,975
03 03 HONDA Jazz 1.4 Dsi SE Auto, silver met, 66k miles, rcl, ew, cd £4,475
05 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 3-dr. Silver, met, 58k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd £4,475
05 54 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Finesse 3-dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd £4,475
05 05 HYUNDAI Sonata 2.4 Auto Saloon, 4-dr, Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, ew, cd, cruise, full leather £4,975
06 56 HYUNDAI 1.4 Getz GSi 3-dr. Black, met, 15k miles, rcl, ew, pas, cd £4,975
07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus 5-dr, grey met, 39k miles, rcl, pas. ew, cd £5,775
06 06 VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 16v Enjoy 5dr. Met purple, 12k miles rcl,pas,ew,cd £5,975
07 07 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 3-dr, silver met, 39k miles, ew, pas, cd £6,475
07 07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Life (a/c) 3-dr, grey met, 26k miles, rcl, pas, cd, ew £6,475
08 08 FORD KA 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Dr. In white, 9,000 miles £6,475
07 07 CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5-dr. Met black, cd, a/c, pas, 12k miles £6,975
07 07 RENAULT clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-dr hatch. Silver met, 24k miles, a/c, rcl, ew, pas, alloys £6,975
09 09 CITROEN 1.0 VTR 3-dr. Met black, 8k miles, rcl, pas, cw, cd £7,475

Family Cars

02 02 NISSAN Almera Twister 1.5 5-dr. Mint green met, 50k miles, rcl, pas, cd, ew £3,475
05 05 RENAULT Megane 1.4 Rush 3-dr Silver met, 53k miles, alloys, rcl, a/c, cd £4,475
06 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.7 CDTi 5-dr. pas, e/w, alloys, Met. Black, 47,000 miles £6,975
07 07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5dr. Met blue, e windows, rcl, 5k miles £6,975
07 07 FORD Mondeo TURBO DIESEL 2.0 TDCi 1x 5-dr. Black met, 34k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd £7,475
07 07 PEUGEOT 307 Hdi 90SE TURBO DIESEL. Green/grey met, 38k miles, alloys, rcl, ew, cd, a/c £7,975

Sports & Executives

04 53 MGTF 1.8 135 CONVERTIBLE. Silver met, 31k miles, alloys, rcl, e/w, pas £4,975
04 54 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi 3dr (120bhp) Dynamique TURBO DIESEL. 60k miles, panoramic roof, rcl, a/c, e/w £5,475
03 53 FORD Street Ka 1.6 Cabriolet. Silver met, alloys, ew, rcl, pas £5,475
03 52 PEUGEOT 206cc Convertible. Silver met, 38k miles, rcl, e/w, cd, 2 tone leather £5,975
05 54 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9 CDTi SRI AUTO 5dr. Met blue, alloys, a/c, fsh £5,975
04 04 MAZDA RX8 228bhp. pas, e/w, alloys, met. black, 29k miles £6,975
04 04 TOYOTA Celica VVTi. Met silver, 39k, S/H, sports pack, leather, sunroof, a/c £7,475
02 52 BMW 325ci Sport AUTO Coupe. Blue met, 72k miles, sand leather, alloys, a/c, rcl, cd £7,975
05 55 MINI One in met silver, alloys, cd, air con, 16k miles £8,475
04 04 CHRYSLER Crossfire 3.2 V6 Coupe. Grey met, 21k miles, leather, NAV, cruise, heated seats £8,975
04 04 MERCEDES SLK 200 Cabriolet AUTO Silver met, 59k miles, AMG Wheels, rcl, a/c, ew, must be seen £11,975
00 W PORSCHE 911 Carrera 4 Coupe AUTO. 75k miles, fsh, met purple, many extras inc 2 tone exhaust £15,975
04 04 MERCEDES SL 500 Cabriolet AUTO. Silver met, 82k miles, leather, alloys, climate, cd, ew, rcl £19,975
06 56 BMW 335D AUTO 2dr Coupe Turbo Diesel. Grey met, 28k miles, full leather, cd, ew, a/c, stunning car £19,975

Estates, MPVs and 4x4s

01 Y RENAULT Scenic 1.4 Authentique, mpv, silver met, 60k miles, rcl, ew. cd, a/c £2,675
01 51 SUZUKI Jimny 1.3 JLX 4x4. Black met, 66k miles, alloys, cd, cl, e/w £3,475
04 04 DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 Extra MPV. Silver met, 22k miles, rcl, ew, pas, roof rails £3,475
04 04 HYUNDAI Matrix 1.8 CDX MPV. Silver met, full leather, rcl, ew, cd £3,975
04 04 FORD Galaxy 2.4 AUTO Ghia MPV. Met silver, 90l miles, rcl, a/c, alloys, cd, cruise £5,975
04 54 BMW X5 3.0D AUTO Sport. Silver met, 104k, fsh, alloys, sat nav, cd, climate, full leather £12,975

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06 56 CITROEN C3 1.6 SX 5dr AUTO. Met blue, **only 5200 miles!**
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06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 5dr Style Climate AUTO. Only 2,300 miles!
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56 06 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 5dr Life (A/C) Blue met, **only 4,900 miles!**
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06 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Life A/C AUTO 5dr. Panacotta, **only 4,900 miles**
New £14,975 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £8,000**
06 56 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Climate 5dr. Red met, **only 2.000 miles**
New £12,475 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £5,500**
06 56 FORD Focus C-Max Zetec 2.0 AUTO 5dr. Met mintgreen, **only 4300 miles!**
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06 56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 Sport 5dr. Grey met, **only 2,500 miles**
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06 56 RENAULT Clio 1.6 Expression AUTO 5dr. Met blue, **only 1760 miles!**
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06 56 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 5dr. Met black, **only 2500 miles!**
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06 56 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.65 dr Life (A/C) Blue met, **only 1,500 miles**
New £14,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £7,500**
06 06 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique. Red met, **only 4,500 miles!**
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58 09 FORD Fusion 1.4 5dr Style AUTO. Red met, **only 1,000 miles!**
New £11,275 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £3,500**
06 56 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamique AUTO. Gold met, **only 2,700 miles**
New £16,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £9,500**
06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Style Climate AUTO. Blue met, **only 3,700 miles**
New £11,475 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £4,000**
06 56 FORD C-Max 2.0 Zetec AUTO MPV. Blue met, **only 4,500 miles**
New £17,475 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £10,000**
06 56 FORD Focus 1.6 Sport 5dr. Blue met, **only 5,600 miles**
New £13,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £6,500**
08 58 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 5dr. Blue met, **only 3,000 miles!**
New £10,175 **Ours £7,975** **Saving £2,200**
09 58 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life (A/C). Silver met, **only 741 miles**
New £12,975 **Ours £8,475** **Saving £4,500**
09 58 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 5dr Hatch. Black met, **only 2,600 miles**
New £10,475 **Ours £8,475** **Saving £2,000**
08 08 HONDA Jazz 1.4 5dr SE. Blue met, **only 4,800 miles!**
New £11,475 **Ours £8,975** **Saving £2,500**
09 09 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 5dr Life. Silver met, **only 1,700 miles!**
New £14,975 **Ours £9,475** **Saving £5,500**
09 09 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 5dr club AUTO. Silver met, **only 400 miles!**
New £11,975 **Ours £9,475** **Saving £2,500**
09 09 CITROEN Berlingo 1.6 HDi 5dr VTR. Blue met, **only 2,200 miles!**
New £12,475 **Ours £9,975** **Saving £2,500**
09 09 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style+ 5dr. Black met, **only 650 miles**
New £12,97 **Ours £10,475** **Saving £2,500**

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06 **56 VOLVO XC90 2.4 D5 AWD (facelift) SE Geartronic AUTO.** In metallic silver with full black leather, colour satellite navigation, phone preparation, electric heated seats, climate control, parking sensors, 7 seats, only 58,722 miles **£19,995**

06 **56 BMW 318CI M Sport Convertible** in sapphire Black with full ebony leather interior, electric memory seats, cruise control, multi function steering wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, rear parking sensors, only 37,060 miles **£15,995**

06 **56 BMW 2.0TD 320D SE 4-dr Saloon.** In Arctic grey with anthracite interior, automatic air con, upgraded alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 41,655 miles, fsh **£13,995**

06 **56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr** in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary I-pod connection, only 19,950 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers **£11,995**

05 **55 BMW X5 3.0D Automatic Sport 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In sparkling graphite with black leather interior, automatic air con, sat nav, roof rails, 20" alloy wheels, front and rear parking sensors, only 65,660 miles **£19,995**

05 **05 BMW X5 3.0D Automatic Sport 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In sparkling graphite with black leather interior, 19" alloy wheels, air con, CD, front /rear parking sensors, privacy glass, only 51,000 miles **£17,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz 1.8 SLK 200 Compressor Auto 2-dr Convertible** in Tellur silver, black leather interior, climate control, multi function steering wheel, CD, alloys, only 61,000 miles, fsh **£16,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz M-Class 2.7 TD ML270 CDi Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon.** In Brilliant silver with Orion grey leather interior, climate control, Bluetooth phone prep, privacy glass, heated seats, rear parking sensors, only 52,975 miles **£15,995**

04 **54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe.** In tanzanite blue with java leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles **£19,995**

01 **51 JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 V6 4-dr Saloon Automatic.** In Pacific blue with cashmere beige full leather interior, climate control, CD, electric seats, rear parking sensors, only 55,810 miles **£5,995**

SPORTS

07 **57 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SIII** in steel grey with full red leather interior, climate control, sunroof, cruise control, alloy wheels, only 23,600 miles **£10,495**

07 **07 SEAT Leon 2.0 TDi DPF FR 5-Dr Hatchback.** In black magic with FR grey interior, cruise control, air con, traction control system, ESP, only 36,598 miles **£13,495**

06 **56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback.** In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles **£10,495**

06 **56 SAAB 9-3 1.9 Tid (150bhp) Vector 4-Dr Saloon Automatic.** In steel grey with half leather seats, steering wheel mounted gear change, climate control, rear parking sensors, in dash multi CD, only 46,905 miles **£8,995**

06 **56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 16v SXi Sportshatch** in sapphire black with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cd, air con, rear spoiler, only 40,600 miles **£6,995**

06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDi 2.0 (140) 5-dr** in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles **£9,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.8TDCi Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles **£7,495**

06 **55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSi 5-dr Sport Back** in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior. BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate conrol, cd, only 39,280 miles **£11,995**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 Cooper S (Chilli Pack).** Black, black leather interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,390 miles **£10,995**

04 **04 PORSCHE Carrera 3.6 Convertible** in lapis blue with metropole leather, bose speaker upgrade, starlight navigation, phone system, cruise control, trip computer, heated seats, sports exhaust systemm, full Porsche service history, hard top, only 42,761 miles **£29,995**

04 **54 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GTi 2.0T FSI (200ps) 3-dr.** In reflex silver with interlagos interior, climate control, traction control, tyre pressure monitor, trip computer, sports seats, alloy wheels, only 69,192 miles **£9,995**

04 **54 VAUXHALL Tigra Convertible 1.8 Sport** in Kingfisher blue with anthracite interior, electric roof, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 62,840 miles **£6,395**

04 **54 MG TF 1.8 135 Convertible.** In ignition blue with anthracite Sebring interior, alloy wheels, cd player, alarm and immobiliser only 27,100 miles **£4,995**

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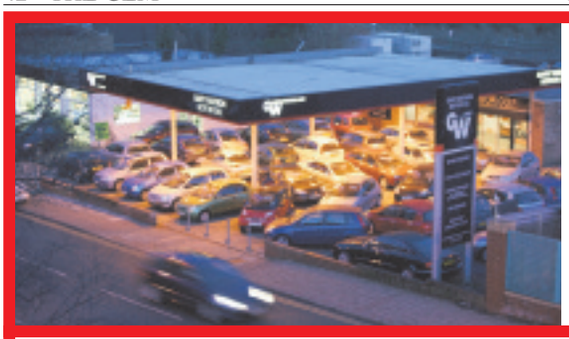

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GEM sport

Victory brings a welcome breathing space, but a more testing time ahead

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

AS a disappointing Six Nations finally drew to a close, the relief on Welsh coach Warren Gatland's face was palpable at the Millennium Stadium on Saturday.

Two victories may have been a poor return from a frustrating campaign in which his team had persistently shot themselves in the foot, but it could have been so much worse!

While the 33-10 home win over Italy was as welcome as it was necessary, to stave off his inevitable critics, the New Zealander knows they will not be kept at bay for long should there not be a marked upsurge in Welsh fortunes, amid concern that Team Wales had lost its way since the exhilarating Grand Slam in 2008.

There is no doubt, as was proven in the vastly-improved display on Saturday, that certain key individuals have been badly missed of late, particularly in the absence through injury of the Lions' front row.

Gethin Jenkins, Matthew Rees and Adam Jones were finally reunited against Italy, and with the return of scrum half Mike Phillips, the revitalised Welsh team looked a totally different proposition against a battling Italian side that had already beaten fellow Wooden Spoon candidates Scotland.

However, Gatland well knew that nothing less than a convincing victory over the Six Nations' so-called 'minnows' would silence the negative mutterings and at least end the campaign on a positive note. With the set piece problems that had haunted previous matches at last sorted out (particularly the previously malfunctioning lineout) giving man-of-the-match outside half Stephen Jones the space and time to do what he does best, controlling proceedings, the threequarters were freed to at last show glimpses of their true worth.

Suddenly, Wales were scoring tries again, with James Hook gliding through for two touchdowns and a third added by the not-to-be-denied Shane Williams in the second half.

On the other wing, accomplished teenager Tom Prydie made a very impressive international debut and with full back Lee Byrne returning to something like his old form, promising opportunities were being created in abundance as Wales finally found themselves playing on the front foot.

However, the squad also knew that victory over Italy and the scrambled last-ditch win over Scotland cannot disguise deep-seated shortcomings that surfaced in recent months and will certainly need to be put right long before the Rugby World Cup comes along next year, if Wales hope to match the All Blacks *et al.*

Wales now appear rooted in fourth place in the Six Nations table and will have to show a considerable improvement, with far sterner tests to come against the southern hemisphere giants, beginning with the South African world champions in June followed by a taxing two-test tour of New Zealand.

In contrast, France now seem to be proceeding smoothly along a well-ordered path laid out by coach Marc Lievremont, buoyed by their Grand Slam-deciding 12-10 win over England in Paris.

Ireland's Triple Crown expectations were abruptly dashed by Scotland's unexpected 23-20 victory at Croke Park. The unlucky Scots have been a revelation, under their new coach Andy Robinson and deserved more than their misleading place languishing near the foot of the table.

They are justified in their belief that they should have beaten both England and Wales.

Be that as it may, the result against Italy has given the Welsh camp a welcome breathing space.

At least they avoided the final ignominy of a Wooden Spoon and now have the opportunity to regroup, address the problems manifested during the tournament, and focus afresh on the strategy for 2011.

Gatland's squad will need to put behind them the frustrations and disappointments of a nondescript Six Nations in which no team stood out with the quality of their play.

Wales were too often undone more by their own error-strewn shortcomings and lack of discipline than by superior opposition.

Despite the encouraging recovery shown against the resilient Italians, lessons are still there to be learned if Wales are to step up to the much higher level needed, before being exposed to the far harsher glare of the World Cup spotlight.

LATE DRIVING MAUL SEALS VICTORY

Pencoed take the game to Maesteg but just fall short

MAESTEG	**24**
PENCOED	**14**

WITH the pitch resembling an aqua park close to kick-off, the wide brooms were used to sweep off the excess surface water.

The match kicked off in aquatic conditions, but the early signs were good for Pencoed as skipper James Murphy stole the opening Maesteg throw, and they were looking solid at the scrum.

Murphy was to again steal possession at the line out in his own 22, for outside-half Marc Davies to clear.

David Pearson and Gareth Prentice then made inroads into the Maesteg ranks to set up a penalty chance, Davies obliging from 43 metres.

Following the restart, Pencoed applied some pressure and were taking the game to the league leaders at this point.

Davies added a 40-metre penalty goal, but shortly before the interval Pencoed failed to clear their lines, and the home side mauled their way over through their captain Gareth Edwards, Robbie Evans converted, and Maesteg led at the break 7-6.

Pencoed had to defend desperately for the opening minutes of the half; however, consistent home pressure saw veteran scrum-half Kevin Ellis score at the posts; Evans converted to lead 14-6.

Maesteg were yellow-carded, but Pencoed threw away the advantage at the next line out, losing the throw when arguably a shot at goal from 35 metres may have been the better option.

Pencoed then turned defence into attack with wing Glen Hiscocks making some 60 metres following the interception, before some interplay in the home 22 saw opposite wing Aaron Songhurst cross wide out.

Maesteg returned to the attack, and under pressure Pencoed again failed to clear their lines for Maesteg once again to maul their way over.

Davies kicked his third penalty to bring the score to 19-14, but Maesteg were to go on and seal victory with their third try from a driving maul through Ross Powell.

This facet of the game proved to be the main difference between the sides, with the home eight able to capitalise from prime positions gained close to the Pencoed try line following attempted clearances.

With seven games to go, a relegation escape act of Houdini proportions is required. However, the Pencoed side can take confidence from this performance, where the top and close to the bottom league positions were not apparent during the match.

On Saturday, Pencoed host Kidwelly, and will look to reverse a 26-8 away defeat. This is not beyond them.

TR

Ladies Varsity match comes to Porthcawl

THE Royal Porthcawl Golf Club recently welcomed the ladies of the Oxford and Cambridge golf teams for the 13th Ladies' Varsity golf match.

A Varsity spokeswoman said: "The event has been taking place since the inaugural ladies' Varsity match was held at Walton Heath in 1998. After a strong showing by Oxford in the early years of the fixture, Cambridge has enjoyed several recent successes.

"However, never before has the game been held at Royal Porthcawl, despite the course's popularity as a venue for the men's Varsity match."

The format of the match has three pairs from each university playing foursomes, and the reserves playing singles in the morning, and six individual matches taking place in the afternoon.

With a final score of 5.5 Cambridge, 3.5 Oxford, the stronger light blue side brought the trophy back to Cambridge for the fourth year in a row.

The nail-biting match was enjoyed by a great many spectators who were as pleased as the players with the perfect conditions.

The course spent the day bathed in sunlight and the clear skies allowed all to indulge in the fabulous views.

Most importantly, everyone gathered at Royal Porthcawl was treated to some excellent golf, with both teams putting on some of the best performances ever seen in the ladies' Varsity match, and all competitors exhibiting excellent sportsmanship.

Point to Point at Ystradowen

THE Glamorgan Hunt are holding their annual point-to-point steeplechases at Ystradowen on Saturday and racing gets under way at 1pm with the members' race which has been reintroduced after a long absence, *writes Brian Lee*.

The open race is a mixed open – men and women riders – and before it is run there will be a parade of the Glamorgan hounds.

An exciting afternoon's racing is promised and more information can be obtained from the honorary secretary Mr Peter Thomas on 01446 774310.

Porthcawl's A team make progress

PORTHCAWL A welcomed Cwmafon to Locks Lane for the second round of the cup, and the match started brightly with an early attack from the visitors.

The ball was cleared by defender Dewi Owen but in flight it struck the Porthcawl 'keeper (Andrew Fisher) in the throat, forcing him off the pitch to recover.

The home team continued with 10 men with defender Jordan Pugh taking up the responsibility in the Porthcawl goal.

Within 10 minutes of the game restarting, a break down the right hand side resulted in a penalty for the home team for hand ball, and this was converted by a confident Andrew Bowden.

Porthcawl brought on substitute Andrew Palmer and went on to make it 3-0 at half-time with a further strike from Andrew Bowden and a sharp header from Andrew Palmer.

The second half saw the away side fired up, and challenges were flying in all over the field, resulting in several bookings for Cwmafon. Their perseverance paid off with a clever goal from their centre forward.

Porthcawl continued with their slick passing and the result was a fourth goal, and number three for young Mr Bowden.

Cwmafon later had a player dismissed for a second bookable offence, but all in all, 4-1 was a fair reflection on the game.

The referee was Mr Tony Rees, who handled a sometimes very feisty cup tie very well. Porthcawl now await the draw for their opponents in the next round.

Final score: Porthcawl A 4 Cwmafon FC 1.

DO

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